FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk September 29, 2013

North & West edition No 575

THE BIG STORY »

Why our wine is booming

...and attracting millions of pounds in investment

INTERVIEW »

MP Rehman Chishti on a remarkable life

His ideological leap

NEWS»

Restaurant owner's shock death

Tragedy forces top venue to shut down

POLICING »

Do dispersal zones work?

Frequently used in the county, we examine their effectiveness

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Kent on Sunday

September 29, 2013 **No 575** **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Politics, crime and wine; all inside this week's edition...

IT IS not difficult to see how one can become hooked on the pursuit of power.

Even a brief visit to Westminster gives the casual visitor the impression they are not only walking the corridors of power but plants the idea of what would it take to stride along them knowing you can wield considerable influence.

I'm sure it's something all politicians, from central government down to local and parish councils, must experience to some degree or another.

All of which makes the subject of this week's profile interview all the more fascinating.

From running for Parliament for Labour to becoming a card-carrying Tory in the space of 12 months, may yet prove Rehman Chishti's defining political moment.

Was it a move motivated by a bid for power or a genuine shift in ideology?

Read the article and come to your own conclusion.

Meanwhile, also inside this week's issue, we take a close look at the use of dispersal zones.

An increasingly popular form of tackling anti-social behaviour there remains a fascinating debate about whether they solve the problem or simply label youngsters as troublemakers. We speak to the police and academics on the issues the use of the zones conjure up.

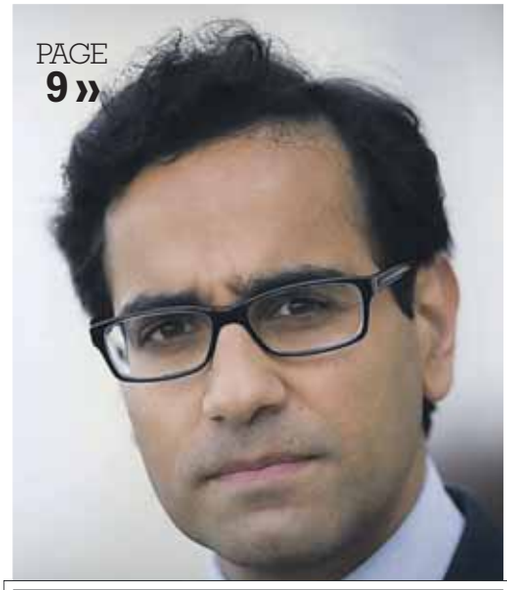
Elsewhere, we raise a glass to our magnificant winemakers who are winning the fight to make Kent a genuine wine making region to be proud of.

Who would have ever thought that just 20 years ago?

Just the latest reason to feel very proud of this county.

Enjoy the paper and have a great weekend.

Editor **Chris Britcher**



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ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

High-end kitchen, bedroom and bathroom furniture manufacturer introduces new range of kitchens aimed at the mid-market customer

By Daniel Reynolds

JUST walking into the Ream showroom at Gillingham Business Park you can instantly see why the company has been the preferred choice of luxury kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms for the past 34 years – the displays are simply stunning!

Whilst many companies are struggling to make ends meet in the current financial climate, Ream are still expanding and with recent investment into new state-of-the-art machinery at their manufacturing facility, Ream are now able to offer a new range of kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and home living furniture named 'The Kent Collection'.

Managing director Peter Cross said, "This is a very exciting time and opens up a brand new market for us. What's more, it allows many customers who believe that high-end bespoke furniture would exceed their budget, a real opportunity to own exactly that, at mid-range prices."

So, if you are currently in the market for upgrading any of these fundamental rooms within your home, here are six critical qualities you should expect;

1) **You should not have to pay a fortune. Even the most experienced supply-and-fit specialist companies will offer you competitive prices and value for money.**
2) **Furniture installation is a skilled – infact, highly skilled – job. Look for a company with its own installation team who have many years experience and expertise fitting a wide variety of different products.**
3) **Choose a company that offers you a complete, start-to-finish service: building work, wall and floor tiling, electrics and plumbing. You do not want lots of different tradespeople doing various parts of your project. Expect the company to do everything; you'll get a far better, more reliable job and you only ever have to communicate with one company.**
4) **Ask for (and expect) FREE computerized 3D planning. You should be offered unlimited alterations until your design is exactly how you want it, right down to every detail.**
5) **You should be offered a 100% guarantee on all installation work and furniture. No quibbles. I would personally never use a company that isn't prepared to put its money where its mouth is. They should be fully prepared to guarantee the quality of workmanship they promise you, by coming back without charge if anything goes wrong... and fixing it.**
6) **The best companies have a choice of modern, contemporary and traditional styles for you to choose from, each with factory built, colour matched rigid cabinets.**

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REAM are one of the best, most meticulous and skilled kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and home living suppliers and fitters I have found. They really take an interest in your job and put an incredible amount of care and attention into building and finishing your project to craftsmen standards. Plus their service doesn't stop there; they pride themselves in exceptional after sales service.

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Ream offers unrivalled choice to suit all types and lifestyles. They have a large range of styles you can choose from, all of a superb high quality, plus an excellent range of products and accessories from many of the best-known and reliable manufacturers.

Ream give you a complete guarantee on ALL your work and furniture.

Mr Cross insists on guaranteeing the work his team do for you. Luckily, little ever goes wrong because his directly employed installation team are among the best and most reliable fitters in the country.

Peter Cross, managing director

He says: "If anything at all is not 100% right for you, or if anything goes wrong, we make it a priority to come back and correct it. We promise the best value in everything we do and ensure that promise is lived up to."

My advice?

IF YOU'RE thinking of having a new kitchen, bathroom, bedroom or home living furniture, call Ream now to arrange your free consultation.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Fresh demand for Boris to discuss flight of fancy

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SNUBBED: The London Mayor has so far ignored pleas to discuss his plans to build an airport off our coast

TOWN hall chiefs in Medway have once again called on Boris Johnson to visit north Kent to discuss his vision for a multi-million pound hub airport in the Thames Estuary.

It follows a visit by the Mayor of London's aviation advisor Daniel Moylan to Maidstone to meet with members of the Kent Economic Board.

Mr Moylan, who invited himself to Tuesday's meeting, promoted the idea of a Thames Estuary airport – although was unable to explain where funding for the hub would come from, Medway chiefs said.

The unitary authority said he also failed to explain how the British economy would cope with the closure of Heathrow or admit that the planned airport would be on the wrong side of London for the majority of British passengers.

Medway Council has made repeated attempts to meet with Mr Johnson over recent years, but he has so far snubbed them all, despite vowing to KoS last year he would finally engage in discussions.

The meeting between Mr Moylan and the Kent Economic Board came the day after Essex County Council released a report saying the estuary airport was "pie in the sky madness".

The Essex council called on the government to be "pragmatic", stating a third runway at Heathrow was the "most viable, affordable and practical option to improve UK aviation capacity".

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, said: "Mr Moylan seems intent on pushing for a scheme that lacks any credibility; would see tens of billions of pounds of taxpayers' money needlessly spent; would damage UK industry as it would lead to the closure of Heathrow; and would see an airport placed – for most people – on the wrong side of London.

"The mayor and Mr Moylan's needless pie in the sky Thames Estuary airport plan would also devastate the Kent and Medway countryside and turn it into a concrete jungle.

"We would suggest Boris comes to Medway and Kent and talks to local people about his plan as this would give everyone golden opportunity to state why it is the worst possible option."

£367m deal struck for free-flowing tolls at the Dartford Crossing

HOPES of a long-awaited end to congestion problems at the Dartford Crossing took a step closer on Friday after a £367 million contract to deliver the new free-flow tolls was signed.

It is hoped the removal of the barriers will ease congestion at the crossing, which is a notorious traffic trouble spot.

The Highways Agency has awarded the seven-year contract to French motorway operator Sanef to design, implement, deliver and operate the tolling system. The contract could be extended by an additional three years.

New technology will allow drivers to use the crossing without having to stop at the barriers to hand over payment.

Road users will instead be able to pay over the phone, by text, online and at retail outlets before they use the crossing.

They will also have until midnight the next day to pay the standard charge. Failure to pay will see motorists slapped with a £70 fine, which will be reduced to £35 if paid within 14 days.

Pre-paid accounts, which qualify for discounted journeys, will also be available.

Roads minister Stephen Hammond said the Government was delivering on its promise to provide improvements that will help traffic flow better at the crossing.

He said: "This will help thousands of drivers who use the crossing every day, and benefit both the local and national economy."

The new technology will be rolled out throughout 2014.

Nigel Gray, Highways Agency project manager, said: "Once it is fully implemented drivers will not have to stop at the barriers, but will pay for their journey remotely.

"This will reduce congestion and ease traffic flow. The contract covers the development as well as the ongoing operation of the new payment system. We remain on track to deliver this in October 2014."

Ringleaders behind £4m cannabis factories are jailed

A COUPLE from Herne Bay who fled to Spain after a police investigation smashed a multi-million pound cannabis production empire have both received jail terms.

Described as 'the main ringleaders' in a drugs production network with a street value of an estimated £4m, Darren Wright, 47, and Debra Wright, 48, both admitted their part in the production of cannabis and were sentenced to five years and eight months, and three years respectively.

The couple, of Canterbury Road, received their sentences this week at Maidstone Crown Court.

They were involved in the production of the drug at sites in Ashford, Herne Bay, Wootton, Dover and Whitstable.

Teen charged over air rifle threats to young children

A TEENAGER will appear in court next month charged with threatening three young boys with an air rifle.

Chedi Eneh, 19, of Seagull Road, Strood, was arrested by police as part of an investigation into claims two 11-year-olds and a 10-year-old were threatened with the firearm in an alleyway leading to Knight Road in the town.

The alleged incident is said to have happened on the afternoon of August 21, this summer.

Shortly after police arrived on the scene, Mr Eneh was arrested. He faces charges of possession of an air weapon with intent to cause fear of violence.

He has been released on bail by police and will appear before Medway Magistrates' Court on October 22.

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seven days

Making the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

High five as eateries feast again on Michelin stars

FIVE restaurants in the county have retained their prized stars after food bible the Michelin Guide released its 2014 edition this week.

The guide hands stars to gastro-pubs, restaurants and hotels that describes the establishment as "a very good restaurant in its category", as is seen as a career goal for many chefs and restrauteurs.

Among the county's culinary elite were the West House in Biddenden, The Sportsman at Seasalter, near Whitstable, Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, Apicius in Cranbrook and Chapter One at Locksbottom near Bromley.

Turn to the Food & Drink section of this newspaper to find our latest restaurant review – a weekly, independent guide to some of the county's leading restaurants.

Top restaurant shuts after sudden death of owner leaves colleagues stunned

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

UNCERTAINTY surrounds the future of one of the county's top restaurants after its owner was found dead as his home.

The doors have closed on the Hengist Restaurant, in Aylesford, and the venue shut down following the sudden death of Paul Smith.

The 43-year-old businessman's body was found earlier this month. His death is not being treated as suspicious.

He was the landlord at the restaurant and also worked closely with celebrity chef Richard Phillips on Michelin-starred Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells.

An emotional Mr Phillips said: "It came as a shock to everyone who knew him.

"He had been involved with Thackeray's for over 13 years and was instrumental in the establishment of this and other restaurants. Paul's tireless enthusiasm and optimism added greatly to the continued success of the restaurant."

SAD: Celebrity chef Richard Phillips paid tribute to his friend Paul Smith

The Hengist has shut down with immediate effect and has been alerting customers to the news via its website and through a notice in the restaurant window.

The statement said: "He had worked tirelessly to ensure Aylesford was graced with a first class restaurant, which he often frequented.

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused to guests who have reservations and all our diners who, like the staff, enjoyed afternoons and evenings in this very special environment. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time."

The Hengist opened in 2005 and proved a popular retreat.

It is understood the bank which had provided the mortgage has now taken over the property. It appears likely it will be sold on.

A close friend told us Mr Smith had suffered from depression which had reduced his day-to-day management of his business committments.

A successful businessman, Mr Smith was the founder of Regal Estates, a sales and lettings agency which he later sold.

An inquest into Mr Smith's death has been officially opened and adjourned.

A-LISTER: Film crew deny reports

Mystery over claims Johnny Depp was here

THE county has been a-buzz with speculation Hollywood A-lister Johnny Depp has been in town - but no-one has yet confirmed a sighting.

The film crew from his latest movie - the star-studded Into The Woods - descended on Dover Castle for two days of shooting this week.

Alongside Mr Depp in the fairytale movie are the likes of Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick, Tracey Ullman and Chris Pine.

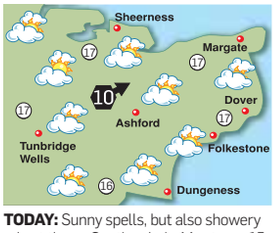
On Thursday, rumours were rife that Mr Depp had checked into the £95-a-night four-star Wallett's Court hotel in St Margaret's Bay.

But an insider on the set insisted Mr Depp - star of Pirates of the Carribean - was not in Kent.

The Disney movie is the film adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical based on The Brothers Grimm's famous fairytales.

A member of the production crew said: "As far as I know, he is not even in England at the moment, unless he arrived quietly and is staying with friends. He is not filming with us for another two weeks and that will be in a studio."

Gavin Oakley, owner of Wallett's Court, said: "I can't confirm or deny any reports. That is our official line."



TODAY: Sunny spells, but also showery rain at times. Gentle winds. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F). **TONIGHT:** Showers, some heavy. Min temp 13-16C (55-61F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	07.19	5.2	20.06	5.1
Margate	07.47	3.8	20.41	3.8
St Mary's	00.39	4.0	13.21	4.2

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 19C	Min 13C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 12C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 13C
Thursday	Max 19C	Min 14C
Friday	Max 19C	Min 13C
Saturday	Max 20C	Min 13C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

All calm as fire crews walk out on strike

STRIKE action by firefighters failed to cause any major disruption to the county on Wednesday, with fire chiefs reporting no problems.

Fire crews walked out as part of a dispute over pensions and following the breakdown of talks between the Fire Brigade Union and the Government.

The industrial action saw a four-hour walkout.

Ann Millington, chief executive of Kent Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We had a relatively low level of activity and I want to thank the public and businesses who obviously heeded safety warnings and taken precautions to keep themselves safe during the strike.

"There were three incidents. The most significant was a fire in a semi detached house in Tonbridge. We had a fire engine there within five minutes and a second was sent for extra back up.

"I would like to thank those staff who worked and who did a good job in providing this important emergency service."

Police hit hard in bid to beat bike problems

A CRACKDOWN on nuisance riders across Medway resulted in more than 40 motorcycles being seized by police.

The force said it had now adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach to policing bikers after the number of complaints about anti-social behaviour on the machines had rocketed.

So far, the neigbourhood team has issued 88 warnings, seized 44 motorbikes, issued 28 fixed penalty notices and made two arrests.

Officers have also visited schools across the towns to advise young people about the laws of riding motorbikes in public areas.

Sgt Philippa Hooper said: "These motorbikes are making life a misery for local residents who have to endure the constant noise. Not only that, but the riders' actions are often dangerous, not only to themselves but also to other members of the public.

"We will continue to patrol key areas to hopefully deter nuisance vehicles."

Health expert in hot water over interview

KENT County Council has been slammed after a public health expert was threatened with disciplinary action after questioning the authority's investment in tobacco firms.

Dr Marion Gibbon made the comments during a recent interview on BBC Radio Kent as she discussed the authority's anti-smoking health campaign, set against revelations KCC invested, indirectly, in tobacco firms via its pension fund.

Now her employer is threatening her with punishment.

A spokesman for her union, Unite, said: "What is at stake here is the freedom of speech for a public health specialist to speak out on issues well within her remit, and professional competence and expertise."

A spokesman for KCC said: "Any unauthorised statements to the media are a breach of the council's employment policies.

"This is an internal matter between KCC and a member of staff."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Could Asda halt North Farm traffic scheme?

THE North Farm improvement scheme in Tunbridge Wells is back on the agenda on Thursday as county councillors look at how they can move forward despite the lack of support from supermarket giant Asda – which owns part of the land needed for the project to go ahead.

Last month, Kent County Council accused landowners of holding up the improvement works, saying a handful were yet to release small pockets of land needed for the scheme, which aims to tackle congestion that currently blights the retail park.

All have surrendered the small parts of land needed and offered support with the exception of Asda.

Asda says it is concerned about retaining full access to its store with bosses submitting alternative plans.

KCC will discuss how it can push on with the Longfield Road scheme.

Early start for passengers with rail 'leaf timetable'

A NEW 'leaf timetable' aimed at minimising chaos on Kent's railway system during autumn starts this week,

Train bosses said autumn presents a "huge challenge" for rail operators with some routes being particularly vulnerable to poor rail conditions due to leaf fall, with leaves becoming compressed and slippery.

It has prompted operator Southeastern to launch a "leaf timetable" including starting morning services earlier to help minimise effects of any delays.

How the new timetable will be received this week remains to be seen, but it's likely commuters will need to adjust their alarm clocks.

See http://bit.ly/1bheyDN

...also

New 20mph zone policy

SPEED limits is on the agenda at County Hall on Thursday with members asked to consider the possible introduction of a new policy on 20mph zones.

The new policy could pave the way for such zones where there is clear road safety or public health benefits.

Post-mortem expected

POLICE say a post-mortem will be carried out this week on the body of a man found dead in Dartford on Tuesday.

Officers were called to an area of the heath between Heathclose Road and Heath Drive after the body was found by a member of the public.

Yobs to be moved on

A DISPERSAL zone, aimed at stemming trouble across parts of Gravesend, comes into force on Tuesday.

The zone gives police the power to move on any group of two or more people they believe could be set to cause trouble.

Turn to page 14 for an in-depth report.

Airport talks resume

MEMBERS of Medway Council will on Thursday consider information on the responses received as part of the consultation on the draft Rochester Airport masterplan.

The consultation, which received some 900 responses, closed on September 20.

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Raise your glass to sparkling success of county winemakers

Once regarded as a joke, the climate is not the only thing warming to Kentish wines as it continues to win plaudits from around the world. **Joe Bill** reports

THERE is a famous saying, passed on down through generations, which warns drinkers never to mix grape and grain.

But it would seem Kent is taking no notice – and has become rather intoxicated by a blend of wine and beer making which is winning plaudits from around the world.

Because in a county most famous for its hops, the vineyard is beginning to spread across our landscape as the grape becomes just as productive a harvest.

All of which is great news for the local economy – boosted by investment and the creation of jobs.

Where once off licences would laugh you out of the shop if you requested a good Kentish wine, today they proudly display a range of bottles and, more importantly, know they will sell.

It's been something of a slow burn. There have been commercial vineyards in the county since the 1960s, but it was more hobby than serious business venture; especially given the might of the traditional mainland Europe producers and then the explosion of New World brands, cashing in on the increasingly particular middle class palate.

But it would be a spin-off of global warming which would change everything.

While the world wondered about the ramifications of hotter summers and wetter, milder, winters, wine makers realised it was shaping up to be ideal for their crop.

"What changed everything?" ponders Andrew Weeber, founder of the Gusbourne Estate in Appledore, near Ashford, "in a word, the climate.

"In the same way that Kent is a producer of some of the UK's finest fruit, and used to be very big in hop production, it is these same climate characteristics that are important for growing grapes.

"It is relatively dry, lots of sunshine and stable warm weather. Kent really is the Garden of England – the warmest, driest spot in the country and we seem to be able to grow very good grapes."

There may be some debate over all that stable warm weather of which he speaks, but there's no denying the quality of the soils of our county.

Gusbourne is perhaps the embodiment of how British wines have become seriously financial players.

Mr Weeber recently oversaw the sale of the winery in a £7 million deal to an existing drinks firm in West Sussex.

It plans to float Gusbourne on alternative stock market AIM with the view of raising a further £2.5m – all of which is to be invested in creating more vineyards and boosting the brand.

And, just like the wine itself, the awards have started to flow too.

But Mr Weeber says the regular recent success isn't a surprise to those in the know and that there is a real belief among English producers that they can compete with heavyweight names in France – especially in the sparkling wine market.

He explains: "Awards are indicative that we can produce great quality. You can be as patriotic as you like but you have to have a good product.

"The sparkling wines can compete directly with Champagne.

"And because we are not Champagne we have to be, at the very least, just as good but hopefully, and at a particular price point, better.

"That is starting to happen and it is coming to the public's notice too. The demand for places to stock English wines is consumer-led."

It's something which can be seen in more and more fashion conscious restaurants. Today many know having a Kent wine on the menu enhances that all important provenance of a meal and is fast becoming a sign of reliable quality.

And Gusbourne is not alone in taking the bull by the horns.

Perhaps the county's best-known vineyard is Chapel Down. A multi award-winner, it has banged the drum for the Kentish grape since it was created 13 years ago.

Once a lone voice in trying to convince the world Kent could become a major player, today the Tenterden firm is vindicated for its confidence.

It employs more than 40 staff, and recently raised more than £4m from investors to ensure it remained at the top of its game.

CEO Frazer Thompson joined the company back in 2001. He remains as thirsty for success today as he did then – and it's fair to say his sights have been raised accordingly. He explains: "Our ambition is to become Europe's most exciting drinks company. The reason we think this is a possibility is that we are already making world class wine.

"And to do that we needed to raise the money – to plant more vineyards and get more fruit to make more wine."

Both Gusbourne and Chapel Down are now regularly seen on the shelves of Majestic, Morrison's, Marks and

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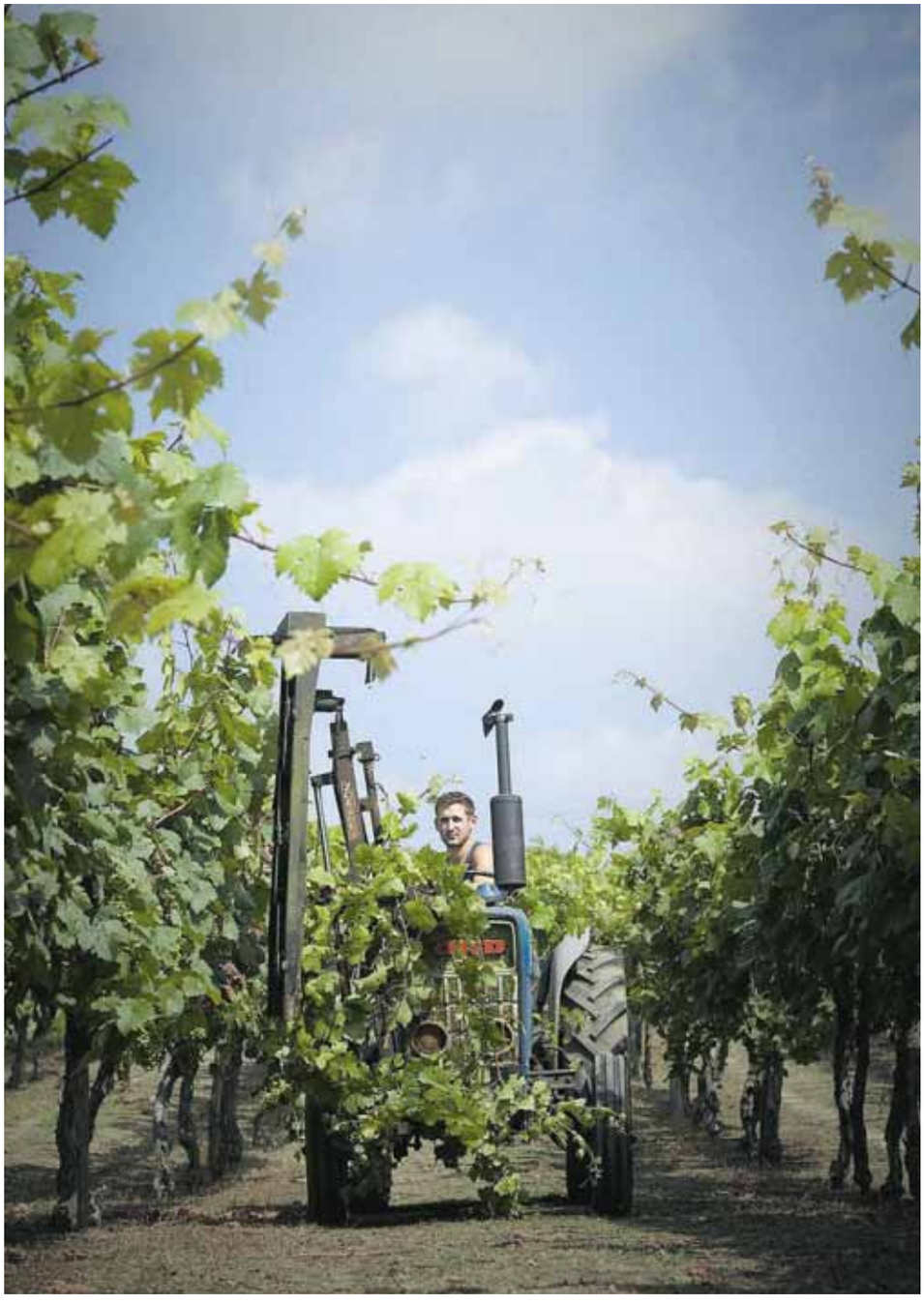

GROWING: Biddenden Vineyards planted Kent's first vines back in 1969, and is now riding the wave of popularity enjoyed by locally produced wines. Also pictured is wine from Sandhurst, based in Hawkhurst Pictures: ADY KERRY

« PAGE 9

Spencer, Waitrose, Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and also a number of top restaurants across the county and London.

But the wealth of interest in the Kentish wine industry does not see just the top dogs rake in the cash. Even the smaller wine businesses are feeling the trickle down effects.

Anne Nicholas, of Sandhurst Vineyards, produced her first bottle of Kentish wine in 1988 but as the competition rises, the Hawkhurst producer now sticks to specialising in growing grapes for others to use.

She said: "We have contracts with other vineyards and sell the bulk of our grapes straight to those who have other wineries.

"The quantity we create ourselves is very small because you have to pay winemaking charges on that which are fairly high, so it is a better deal for us to sell our grapes.

Sandhurst specialises in growing the Bacchus white wine grape which is popular in mainland Europe (see box on right hand side).

But this cultivation is something it may not have been able to have done just a few years ago.

"Apparently our soil is very like that of Germany where the Bacchus grape, our main grape, is grown in big quantities."

It's precisely that similarity, coupled with a major investment boost, which has elevated Kent's reputation.

"For a long time there was some bad English wine made and it got a very bad name," she explains.

"But now winemakers are mostly internationally experienced and fully trained.

"In the early stages of English wines, makers couldn't afford the best equipment but now vineyards that make wine like Chapel Down have got really top of the range gear so they can the highest standard."

Shaking off the stigma of being known as a bad wine producer has not been easy for England – after all, its reputation for high quality food and drink compared to our Continental cousins has always been rather lacking.

But with the amount of praise and awards heading to these shores it would seem the negative views are now a thing of the past.

But the question is, are English wines a passing fad? Does Kent really have the long term clout to compete with the likes of the Champagne region in France?

Editor of The Wine Merchant business website, Graham Holter, is staying positive. He believes there could be more good times yet to come.

He explains: "English wine shook off its novelty status several years ago. We now have producers in southern England making wines that do well in blind tastings, win all kinds of awards, and justify the Champagne-level prices retailers charge for them.

"It's no surprise this has created a ripple effect and that more investors and entrepreneurs are interested in buying into the category.

"I fully expect to see more vineyards in Kent over the coming decade, and probably more wineries. Some of these projects will be commercially successful – others may simply be the playthings of millionaires who want to enjoy their money and can tolerate modest losses and wash-out vintages."

It would seem running a vineyard is a little like taking over a football club. You need to have a complete passion and very deep pockets. And there are plenty of risks involved.

Vineyards and winemaking may have benefited from the change in the county's climate, but it can still be a hostage to it too .

Explains Mr Holter: "It's far from easy money. Land costs are high, building a winery is expensive, and the market is competitive.

"English fizz doesn't just compete with Champagne, it has to fight against much cheaper sparkling wines like Prosecco and Cava, and as more English wines appear, we may approach a point where the market is saturated.

"You also have to bear in mind that Kent is right on the edge of the boundary for commercial wine production. Cold winters are fine for vines, as it gives them a chance to rest, but frost in the growing season is bad news and if the summer is cool and rainy you can end up with no crop at all.

"In fact last year Nyetimber Vineyard in West Sussex refused to release wine from the 2012 vintage because the weather was so poor.

"Not many English producers have that luxury – they need the cash flow to continue or they're in big trouble."

> **"There has been an increase in the average temperature during the growing season in the past 30 years which is relevant to ripeness"**
>
> **Julian Barnes,**
> on the quality of English wine

To continue the football metaphor for a moment, a hard frost can be the equivalent of your first team squad all breaking their legs.

But, for now, there is a wave of optimism which Kentish winemakers are quick to take advantage of.

The hype surrounding Kentish wines may allow the more ambitious producers to get their brands into the big name shops and restaurants but it has also allowed smaller, countywide wineries the financial breathing space to develop their regional networks and provide a service on a more local level.

Biddenden in west Kent has the county's oldest vineyards – established in 1969 – but the group refuses to deal with supermarkets or retailers, instead choosing to offer a more personalised experience to customers.

REMARKABLE RISE OVER A DECADE

The swift nature of Kentish wine's rise to the top is exemplified by Gusbourne PLC, which just this month part of multi-million pound takeover.

In less than ten years it has gone from a standing start, to a planned stock market flotation designed to raise £2.5m.

Its history so far:

2004 Gusbourne Estate became a vineyard and planted its first vines

2006 The grapes were harvested, the names of the wines that were produced are Brut Reserve 2006 & Blanc de Blancs 2006

2010 The first awards (two silver medals) won by Gusbourne at the Decanter World Wine Awards (DWWA) for its Brut Reserve 2006 and Blanc de Blancs 2006

May 2013 Its most successful haul at the DWWA; Blanc de Blancs 2008 – bronze; Brut Reserve 2008 – silver;Rose 2009 – silver; Pinot Noir 2010 – commended; Guinevere 2011 – Gold & UK trophy.

September 2013 Gusbourne is bought by Shellproof PLC for £7 million.

It will be floated on the stock exchange with a view to raising investment funds.

The most common grapes found in Kent for the sparkling winemaking process.

Bacchus:

This creates bacchus wine. Named after the Roman god of wine, Bacchus grapes have a strong flavour. This is one of the UK's most widely planted white varieties, having won a number of awards when bottled.

Chardonnay:

A fundamental ingredient of Champagne, plantings of Chardonnay are on the increase for the production of English sparkling wine.

Pinot Noir:

Often seen in California and Burgundy, the versatile grape can be used for both the production of red wines as well as lighter sparkling wines and rose.

Pinot Meunier:

First mentioned in the 16th century, it is a variety of black wine grape most noted for being one of the three main varieties used in the production of Champagne.

Wine in numbers

25,000

bottles of wine sold by Chapel Down in 2001

£5.99

the average price of those bottles

250,000

bottles of sparking wine sold by Chapel Down in 2012

£18.99

the average price of those bottles

Owner Julian Barnes explains: "It's been a long story to tell, but the success of English wines at the moment is based on several factors.

"Most importantly, winemaking has improved immensely over the last 10 years.

"As has the understanding of grape varieties. There is also more focus on the sparkling wines that we are extremely good at producing and compete very well.

"There has also been an increase in the average temperature during the growing season across the past 30 years which is relevant to better sugar levels and a better ripeness of fruit.

"And, as with everything, if you use better ingredients, coupled with good production facilities and knowledge you will produce a high quality product."

Mr Barnes also praised the work done by marketing groups like Produced in Kent, which champions loacal food and drink producers, and tourism agency Visit Kent for promoting the county's goods and agricultural expertise – raising the profile of the exports Kent has to offer.

"There are a lot of these things coming together to make people realise that there is more on their doorstep than perhaps they realised," he added.

"Whether it's CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) talking about beers or county food groups talking about the benefits of using locally produced foods, it is working.

"As a nation, we can lack belief in ourselves, but if we can continue to get people out and tasting the wine, then the future for us is really positive right now."

Some of those businesses listed on the Kent roster include Terlingham Manor Vineayard at Hawkinge near Folkestone, The Mount Vineyard near Sevenoaks and Hush Heath Estate in Tonbridge.

> **"English farmers, when they get their act together, are the best farmers in Europe and possibly the world"**
>
> **Andrew Weeber,** on the huge potential of Kentish vineyards

That sort of competition may scare off potential business investors in other industries but clearly not in the wine world.

Like the old adage states "competition breeds success"; it's a mantra Gusbourne's Andrew Weeber is keen to endorse.

He said: "We welcome competition because the better they are at growing grapes and producing great wine the better in the long term it is for all of us.

"The worst thing that could happen is someone opening a bottle of Kentish wine and it not being good. That does everybody harm.

"The UK drinks more than 100 million bottles of sparkling wine per year. Of that, 35 million are Champagne and the rest is Prosecco or Cava from all parts of the world – so it is a huge market.

"We now have the backing and the capital to progress this business plan for more than 10 years. But this isn't a get rich quick scheme.

"English vines are improving dramatically because we are farming much more professionally.

"English farmers, when they get their act together, are the best farmers in Europe and possibly the best in the world, and there is no reason why we can't be the best grape farmers."

Mr Weeber is also keen for Kent's new found wine wealth to boost the local economy and develop the personnel and infrastructure to ensure the county continues to grow its name in the winemaking world.

He added: "One of the most exciting aspects of it is the impact on local communities.

"Vineyards tend to grow in beautiful places and they are beautifully looked after and that works wonders for local property.

"But also on our 50 acres, we already employ 10 full-time staff, rising to 20 full-time with our expansion.

"That would make us the biggest employer in this area of Kent. And these are jobs for talented people. We already have two agricultural apprentices and we are thinking of employing more. This industry will have great implications for Kentish villages."

The experts appear unanimous in declaring Kentish wine to be in its pomp and there is no sign of slowing the winemakers as they rush to plant more grapes in our fields.

Perhaps it is time to raise a glass of red, white or rosé to the new industry sweeping through both the county and the international awards ceremonies – or better still, a glass of locally-grown white or sparking.

And just like a fine wine, only time will tell how good it will get.

Island retreat to help save wildcats from extinction

Champions of the gorilla, the Aspinall Foundation is looking closer to home as it launches a breeding programme to help save the so-called highland tiger, **Chris Murphy** investigates

OVER the years, one of the county's leading animal charities has developed a reputation for its conservation work with some of the most magnificent creatures on the planet.

And not only has the Aspinall Foundation (TAF) helped protect and promote lions, tigers, elephants, rhino and, most recently, its reintroduction programme of apes in the Gabon, it has maintained two of the county's most popular tourist attractions - Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Hythe and Howletts in Bekesbourne, near Canterbury.

But now it is branching out with an ambitious project to save a creature facing the threat of extinction far closer to home.

In what sounds like something from Jurassic Park, the foundation is hoping to bolster the animal by introducing a breeding programme on a remote, isolated island.

The Scottish wildcat has become one of the most critically endangered species in the world, due to mass cross-breeding with domestic cats.

As a consequence, the breed has become massively diluted.

It is currently believed no more than 35 exist in the wild – making them more rare than the giant panda.

Now, TAF is to lead a team of conservationists to establish a custom-built wildcat breeding centre at the remote island of Carna off the west coast of Scotland. The centre will provide a vital sanctuary where pure Scottish wildcats can breed in safety before being reintroduced into their natural habitats.

Damian Aspinall, who runs the foundation, and whose father John Aspinall founded the two Kent wildlife parks, said: "With the hybridisation caused by hordes of feral domestic cats, the extinction of true wildcats in Scotland is imminent unless this direct and immediate action is taken.

"TAF of course supports the action plan currently being developed by the Scottish government to conserve the wildcat. However, as funding is not yet secured, the breeding project is unlikely to start until 2014.

"We don't believe wildcats have the luxury of that time before they become extinct.

"Our initiative, starting immediately, means litters of pure wildcats will be born safely and will be ready for when the government's action plan receives funding.

"We believe this is an example of real in situ conservation with the future reintroduction sites visible from the breeding centre so that the cats won't have far to go before they are sent back to the wild."

Even the Scottish wildcats in captivity at Port Lympne may not be entirely pure bred, say keepers; highlighting the extent of the problem.

Stephen Veen, carnivore keeper at the park, said: "Hybridisation is their biggest threat. There are thousands of feral domestic cats roaming the Scottish Highlands and they are coming into contact with the Scottish wildcat. They are breeding, transmitting disease and that has led to them becoming very close to extinction."

AT RISK: In a bid to save the purity of the wildcat, the Aspinall Foundation is to set up a breeding centre on the island of Carna, off the Scottish coast

The Aspinall Foundation said it is uniquely qualified to carry out the project as it holds the studbook for the Scottish wildcat – a full list of which creatures have been bred in captivity and where – and also has access to the latest wildcat genetic test via wildlife expert Dr Paul O'Donoghue. He also holds the only trapping license for wildcats.

Dr O'Donoghue says his test can even reveal the percentage of domestic cat that may be in each animal.

The expert said: "The west coast holds the only short-term chance for a realistic conservation effort. The geography means wildcat havens can be set up where the species can be protected from hybridisation.

"It is optimistic to think areas such as the Cairngorms, surrounded by human habitation, can act as sanctuaries as it would be impossible to stop the relentless flow of feral cats into the areas. It would take a draconian move to ban cat ownership in such areas and that's just not realistic."

At Port Lympne, Neville Buck, the studbook keeper for the Scottish wildcat, said: "I am unaware of any facilities on mainland Scotland that are suitable to deliver this project. It is essential that we move ahead now to provide this breeding sanctuary.

"We are as interested in native species as we are in exotics. This animal is even more rare than the giant panda with possibly as few as 35 left, so this is our last chance to save something wild – it is the highland tiger."

TAF's island centre is a key part of a large scale conservation project.

Thousands of feral cats on the coast's peninsulas are to be trapped and neutered to create large mainland areas clear of the threat of hybridisation. This will mean the pure wildcats bred at the TAF centre can be released safely into the wild without the risk of cross breeding again.

To further its immediate action, TAF is also asking landowners on the west coast of Scotland if they would be prepared to provide land that could be used for wildcat conservation. It is anticipated this first breeding centre will only be the start of the ambitious project to establish the west coast of Scotland as an effective stronghold for the wildcat.

The Aspinall Foundation is world famous for its conservation work in Congo, Gabon, Indonesia and Madagascar, and its project reintroducing gorillas to the wild in areas where they have been hunted to near extinction. It also provides financial support to partner projects around the world to help prevent the most endangered species on the planet from dying out.

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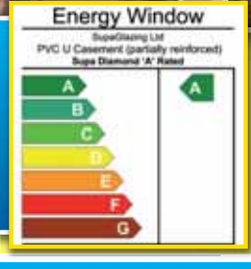

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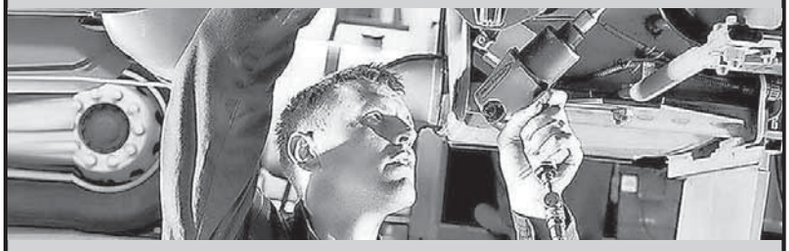

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Are dispersal zones solving street trouble or labelling the young?

Part of the arsenal in the war against anti-social behaviour, **Joe Bill** looks at the implementation of these controversial areas and what they achieve

TACKLING anti-social behaviour has become something of the Holy Grail of policing; a constant pursuit to come up with a process which cracks down on the low-level nuisances which have become the scourge of communities.

Rid local areas of noisy groups of teenagers, graffiti, loud music and drunken behaviour, and a remarkable level of peace descends.

For governments past and present, it has become a major political hot potato. Since Tony Blair made it a key part of New Labour's push to envy the Conservatives in being tough on crime, it remains a constant headline grabber for all parties.

Blair's Anti-Social Behaviour Order, or Asbo, unleashed in 1998, was designed to tackle the sort of behaviour which falls short of being criminal but disrupts neighbourhoods.

The Asbo restricted behaviour and was enforced by the courts.

Five years later, championed by then home secretary David Blunkett, the Anti-Social Behaviour Act of 2003 swung into force and with it a whole raft of measures.

Among them was the dispersal zone; a relatively straightforward mechanism designed to be deployed to tackle those areas dogged by recurring problems.

Once agreed, the short-term powers allow police to disperse groups of two or more poeple in any public place if their presence "has resulted, or is likely to result, in members of the public being intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed".

Between 9pm and 6am, anyone under 16 could be marched back to their home.

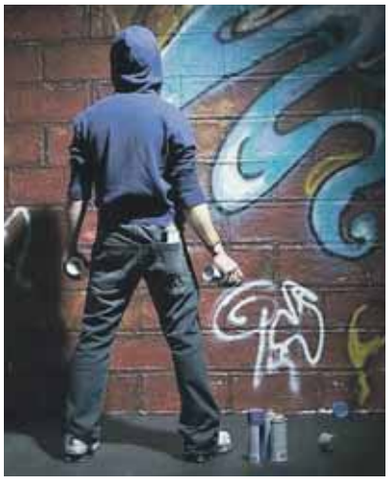
Ten years on, and the zones remain a key part of tackling anti-social behaviour.

And Kent is far from a stranger to them. They have been deployed across the county, with their results frequently being lauded as solving often troublesome areas.

On Tuesday, the latest one comes into force to clamp down on problems in part of Gravesend.

But the recurring question is do they actually work? Or, as many fear, do they simply push the problem into neighbouring streets?

"It all depends on how they are implemented," explains Dr Tom Cockcroft, senior lecturer in applied criminology at Canterbury Christ Church University. He has conducted an extensive study on dispersal zones and believes targeting particular issues – like nuisance drivers – is a more affective use than in the fight against anti-social behaviour.



"If a specific crime or anti-social behaviour issue is identified in a tightly defined area it may help," he admits. "For example, in the dispersal area we researched, the real motivation for introducing it appeared to be as a means of reassuring the local population something was being done about congregating youths.

"The fact congregating youths were not committing crime or engaging in anti-social behaviour meant the dispersal area was a solution to a problem that did not, in reality, exist."

Yet reassurance is perhaps, in today's society, as essential a weapon in the law enforcer's arsenal than ever before.

For many years, police in many parts of the county have bemoaned the so-called 'perceived' threat of crime far outweighing the reality of a county which is, predominantly, a very safe place to live and work.

Chief Inspector Lee Russell, of Kent Police's partnerships and crime reduction department, explains how it is agreed to deploy a dispersal

zone: "Extensive work and evidence is needed to put one in place. The police superintendent needs to agree there are reasonable grounds showing the public are intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed. He has to provide written authority for it to go ahead.

"But the key issue is that there has to be a consistent and significant problem in that area. We would also have worked closely with the local authorities on this.

"The evidence we have to show is that there is a persistent problem but also that our communities are telling us there's a problem."

Last summer, a zone was introduced at Liberty Park housing estate in Wainscott, Medway. The new development had seen groups gathering and those moving to the area were becoming concerned.

It was a real team effort to resolve the problems, and the dispersal zone played a part in a wider programme which saw involvement from the developer behind the estate, the parish council, Medway Council and residents themselves. It was ultimately declared a success.

Adds Ch Insp Russell: "In the main, the response we get from the public is positive because generally, the reason for enforcing the zone has come from people living in the area in the first place. Zones are a police response to a community concern. It is effective."

But does it just shift the area down the street?

"Not at all," he insists. "If you look at the two areas used most recently in Medway and Thanet, so far the whole of Medway has had 300 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour this year.

"And the Thanet area has had 110 fewer incidents since the zone was enforced.

"There is no displacement that we can see.

"If you focus on an area to prevent anti-social behaviour, then you should see that it has gone down, and that is what's happened."

For four months earlier this year, the Temple Hill area in Dartford was subject to a dispersal zone, with police targeting the urban estate.

Dartford Borough Council leader Jeremy Kite was heavily involved in the zone's set up and has backed dispersal tactics as integral to bringing down problems in the targeted area.

He explains: "We had three wards covered by the dispersal zone and we are looking at the volume of crime being down by 33, 59 and 50 per cent in the Joyce Green, Littlebrook and Newtown areas respectively. Anti-social behaviour was also down 42, 62 and 29 per cent. So they are major changes.

"We haven't got the stats for the period after the zone ended yet, but my guess is that crime rates will have gone up again, because you haven't got that sustained policing.

"However, my hope is they will be lower than when we started out.

"Our dispersal zone covered 4,000 to 6,000 people and the dispersal order only engaged

> **"We don't just wander up to young people and say 'right leave!'. We have a conversation with them and explain why we are doing it and why the public have concerns"**
>
> **Ch Insp Lee Russell,**
> On the implementation of dispersal zones

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impact it had on crime rates.

"If you have an individual who is dedicated to committing crime and you move them from Dartford to Erith then they are probably going to commit crime. But there were lots of people hanging around with these criminals and I believe we will have prevented crime within those people."

The social impact of the zones remains hotly discussed.

Does it label youngsters, who perhaps have no other places to go, as trouble-makers? Does it apply pressure between these impressionable groups and the police?

Cllr Kite said: "You have to think about everything before you implement them because of reputational effect on an area when you advertise it as a 'dispersal zone'. You have to be careful not to label everyone in an area as 'likely to commit a crime'.

"You have to be socially responsible. To go in and get the community on your side and let them understand this is for them, not against them."

The Temple Hill dispersal zone saw the local council work with Kent Police and outside agencies to engage with the community and make people aware of the dispersal zone technique before it was implemented – something Cllr Kite believes is essential if this policing technique is going to work in the long term.

He added: "The way we prepared it, was that we told community groups why we were doing it, with door-to-door visits and letters. And we made a lot of effort with partners to get young people involved and engaged in activities to say to them 'you live in a good place and you are good people'.

"We had a community fun day where the Army did activities – just to embed the feeling that this wasn't an assault on the community. It was an assault on a very small number of people within the community."

And Cllr Kite agrees that there is a fine balancing act to be performed by authorities looking to implement dispersal zones in the future.

"We don't want young people labelled as criminals just because they are hanging around.

"However, Temple Hill is a dense urban estate. And some young people were idolising the criminals – wanting to hang around with them. The dispersal zone was very good at separating those people out and police officers were able to ask the youngsters 'what on earth are you doing hanging around with these people?'

"The combination of being accosted on the street and taken home, we think, had a big effect, and got those young people realising they don't need to do this."

Although wider public perception often associates anti-social behaviour with younger people, Ch Insp Russell is keen to show the dispersal zones are not solely targeting adolescents and are instead focused on tackling anti-social behavour.

He said: "We don't just wander up to young people and say 'right leave!', We have a conversation with them and explain why we are doing it and why the public have concerns.

"The aim is not to arrest people, the aim is to educate them.

"If you use them as a tool in the right areas then they are effective."

In his research, Dr Tom Cockcroft also found that communication with different social groups before a dispersal zone is implemented was key to avoiding stigmatisation of an area.

The author of Police Culture: Themes and Concepts (published by Routledge), explained: "Interestingly, we found the police were very reluctant to introduce dispersal zones to combat congregating youth unless there was a real crime or anti-social behaviour problem.

"They did feel pressured into supporting their introduction in some cases by local pressures keen to be seen to do something about the 'youth crime problem'.

"Whilst we interviewed some youngsters who were very supportive of the dispersal area, it all comes down to how well it is implemented.

"For example, in our research we found that young people were being dispersed for being young whilst the anti-social behaviour of adults did not result in adults being dispersed.

"In other words, the dispersal area was brought in to deal with young people regardless of their behaviour."

As Gravesend prepares for its dispersal zone, it would appear in Kent, at least, the zones are proving a success. The debate over whether the potential social stigma presents an issue later, rages on.

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On the fast track to power

From Labour councillor to Conservative MP, Rehman Chishti has ruffled as many feathers as he's calmed. But there is no denying that, at just 34, he has led a remarkable life, underpinned by a resolute determination to succeed. **Chris Britcher** meets the man and charts his rise from small Pakistan village to the corridors of power of Westminster

HE HIGH-fives the Prime Minister, he was one of assassinated former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto's closest aides in the UK and, at just 34, is one of the youngest MPs at Westminster.

Yet Gillingham and Rainham MP Rehman Chishti remains perhaps best known as the man who fought as a Labour candidate in the 2005 General Election only, 12 months later, to have turned his back on his comrades and jumped the ideological fence into the arms of the Conservatives.

Like changing your football team, it's not really the done thing.

Yet, four years later, he unseated Labour's Paul Clark as MP in the area where he grew up, in an election campaign where tension between the former friends simmered.

What's more, like an eagerly anticipated prize fight, the two will have a rematch on the hustings in two years time, as they once again go head-to-head to win the seat at Westminster.

It is sure to be one of the most intriguing match-ups in what is always a period of great drama.

Mr Chishti is perched upon a substantial majority which only the more optimistic Labour campaigner would expect to see overturned... however this is politics and anything can happen.

But despite the questions his well-publicised switch obviously prompt – amid accusations he is simply a career politician with his sights set on the highest office – his achievement is rather remarkable given his age.

And some of the challenges he has faced.

Born in a small village in the Kashmir region of Pakistan in 1978, he was delivered into a family ripped apart by the shifting political sands in the country.

His father, a priest at a local mosque, had been called up to serve as religious advisor to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto – then prime minister and founder of the ruling PPP – the Pakistan People's Party.

But when the party was toppled in a military coup in 1978 – and Bhutto executed following a controversial trial amid allegations of authorising the murder of a political opponent – his supporters were forced to flee the country for fear of bloody retribution.

Mr Chishti's father hopped on a plane and jetted off to seek refuge in the UK – settling in Gillingham.

Young Rehman – who was not even born when his father left his pregnant wife behind – would not set eyes on his father in person until he was six years old; the two first meeting when they were introduced after-Rehman and his mother touched down at Heathrow in November 1984.

Yet he cites his father as the major influence on his life.

"My father came from a very modest background," he explains. "We lived in a little village when suddenly he was appointed to the government to be a federal advisor. It was huge for my father.

"It proved if you put the work in, you're determined, and you're hard working, you can achieve anything."

It is a mantra the MP will frequently recite as we sit in the bustling communal area of Portcullis House, a modern, gothic, building across the road from the House of Commons.

Along with repeated commitments to a fair society and a desire to make change for the better, he is, perhaps, the very image of what we are led to believe encapsulates the modern, progressive Conservative; further boosted by the fact he is a Muslim.

His critics, meanwhile, will say his track record suggests he will simply dance to the tune of whoever feeds his desire for success. And it's a difficult accusation to shake-off given his remarkable political volte-face.

Speak to those who knew him growing up and during his fledgling political days and they are all united in painting a picture of someone with an acute desire to climb the ladder, whatever it took.

The building in which we sit is impressive. Above our heads is a huge, ornate archway through which light streams.

It houses offices for more than 200 serving MPs and their associated aides; thus becoming a hub of gossip, excitable chatter and political intrigue. An underground passageway takes you straight into the very heart of the Palace of Westminster. Truly we are amid the corridors of power. Or, at least, in sight of it.

Mr Chishti himself is a slight figure – no more than five-foot, six-inches

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tall, he readily admits his height put paid to his initial career aspiration of becoming a professional cricketer.

A medium-paced bowler, he played for a host of local teams including Hempstead and Lordswood – and was good chums with David Masters, who now plies his trade in the Essex county championship team.

"He wasn't interested in his studies," he says of his old school friend, "I think he'd forgive me for saying – he just wanted to play cricket."

The young Mr Chishti, however, was developing firm career aspirations of his own.

While at university in Wales, where he studied law, he served for the National Union of Students, reaching its national executive, while his political opinions led him to seek summer placements at the offices of MPs and MEPs; his feet firmly planted in the Labour camp.

"My parents always voted Labour," he explains, "my father's views were centre left.

"If you were from a working class background, and my father did not earn very much money, you voted Labour. I don't think that's true now, but then it was."

His focus, however, was on becoming a barrister.

Even the distraction of being introduced – by a friend of his father's – to the then former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto did not derail his ambition.

While he would become an intern for the politician – the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto – by the time he was 23 (he admits the ability to work alongside such a high profile player on the world political stage could be intoxicating) – he was not only a qualified lawyer, but had also been elected onto Medway Council as a Labour councillor – becoming one of the youngest to assume a position in the chamber. He was clearly a character on the way up.

Wooed by Tony Blair's pulling up of Labour by its boot straps and once again making it electable, Mr Chishti had joined the party as Blair entered Number 10 in 1997.

"Like many people at the time," he reflects, "I was inspired by Blair and what he was doing."

But what few can have expected – least of all those Medway Labour Party colleagues who had helped him secure his first election victory – was what lurked around the corner.

With his political ambition burning inside him, he stood as a Labour candidate in the 2005 General Election in Horsham. A safe Conservative seat, held by Tory stalwart Francis Maude, the two men appeared to develop a respect for one another, which one opponent dubbed a 'love-in', on the campaign trail.

Set against the backdrop of Blair left battered and bruised over his handling of Iraq, and the no doubt flattering attentions of a senior former minister, Mr Chishti started to think again about his political allegiance.

Within 12 months of defeat in West Sussex, he had become a card carrying member of the Conservatives.

It was a remarkable U-turn which would leave him saddled with allegations of being a career politician; who saw Labour's decline was on the cards and opted for the Conservatives, and David Cameron's ascending star, in pursuit of a seat at Westminster.

ELECTED: Rehman Chishti represents Gillingham as an MP in the Houses of Parliament
MP pictures: ADY KERRY

> **"Like many people at the time, I was inspired by Blair and what he was doing"**
>
> **Rehman Chishti,** on his Labour roots

Unsurprisingly, the move did not sit comfortably with his colleagues in the Medway Labour group.

"People didn't want to speak to me, made unpleasant remarks, gave me the cold shoulder," he recalls.

"I thought it showed up the Medway Labour group for what they are.

"I do understand it must be hard when a colleague goes, but look at it the other way – if you've changed your values you cannot stay for the sake of saying."

The leap from red to blue is not only rare but upsets what is still a very tribal sense of belonging at the grassroots of local politics.

Little wonder, then, the words 'betrayal' and 'anger' still reverberate around the Medway Labour group over their former colleague.

CHISHTI AND BENAZIR BHUTTO

Rehman Chishti kept in close contact with Benazir Bhutto right up until her assassination shocked the world in December 2007.

The first woman PM in an Islamic state, she had hoped to win an historic third term in the Pakistan elections.

She had previously lost the role after election defeat in 1997 and had gone into self-imposed exile.

She had only returned to Pakistan for the first time in October 2007, and appeared to be on course to victory.

On the day she arrived back in Pakistan a bomb narrowly missed her entourage – it was a sign of what was to come.

As she took part in an election rally in Rawalpindi a gunman fired shots and then detonated an explosive device.

It was ultimately revealed she was killed after the force of the explosion forced her to hit her head.

"She was two weeks away from winning that election," says Mr Chishti.

"We were all aware of the threat to her life.

"It was always on the cards. There were elements who did not want a progressive Pakistan – they didn't want a woman as head of state."

Earlier this year, former military dictator of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, was formally charged over her murder. He also faces an additional murder charge and the prospect of being put on trial for treason.

Mr Musharraf denies all the allegations and says the cases against him are politically motivated.

"Do I think there is a real case against Mr Musharraf for not providing security to her?" says Mr Chishti, "the answer is yes."

Francis Maude, with whom he had kept in close contact since the election defeat, had helped influence his decision, he admits, and pointed to the similarities of many of their beliefs. The scalp of bringing a New Labour defector into the Conservative camp was exactly the sort of political capital the Tories needed as they saw a change in leader and a change in focus.

And this ensured Mr Chishti was noticed at the very highest level of the Conservative power pyramid.

He explains: "I had come away from the Horsham election pretty disillusioned with Labour.

"I had not agreed with the Iraq war, I was a young criminal barrister and did not agree with the whole early release scheme, and I had an issue with education."

He points to his own schooling – again, something which he mentions frequently throughout the interview.

Having attended Napier Primary in Gillingham he had progressed to Fort Luton Secondary School – what he describes as "a tough, hard school", which closed down in 1995.

He "flunked" his 11-plus, thus denying him a place at one of the local grammar schools.

Perhaps unused to failure, he would finally reach a grammar at sixth form when he attended for his A-levels. But the experience is clearly a thorn in his side.

"You could see the difference based on ability and aspiration," he says of his sixth form education at the grammar, "and you had a Labour Party not supporting grammar schools. It seemed wrong to be denying this ability for social mobility."

He dismisses any suggestion a comprehensive system is potentially fairer in providing a level playing field, and insists Labour's opposition to grammars was a key motivating factor in his decision to switch.

After a year of "soul searching" his transformation from red to blue was complete and in March 2006 he was a Tory – and working as an aide to none other than Francis Maude.

"I joined the Conservative Party

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We apologise for spelling mistakes which appeared in last week's advertisement for King's Rochester's imminent Open Day. This was due to a production error at the newspaper. The copy supplied by the school was correct.

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because I believed in it and David Cameron's leadership," he explains.

"Joining a new party is a hard decision because you have to start out again and you know no-one.

"I knew no-one on the Tories in Medway. I had to start from scratch. And I loved it. I had to prove myself.

"It again proved hard work and determination can get you anywhere."

Having campaigned for Paul Clark in the Gillingham seat in 2005, by the time of the 2010 election, Mr Chishti was nominated the Tory candidate.

"Accusations of being a turncoat made me determined to convince people I was genuine," he says. "There were 130 applicants to stand for the Gillingham seat – some of whom are now MPs and ministers. I stood and I won that.

"You cannot be picked up and put into a seat because ultimately, the membership have to support you.

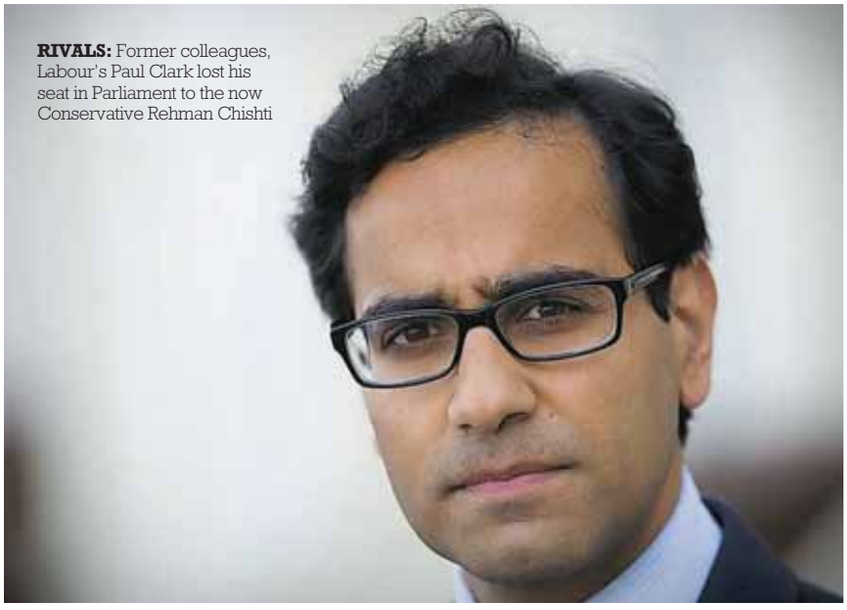
"Paul Clark would never shake hands with me during the campaign, which I found most discourteous.

"We had got on well beforehand. But irrespective of his feelings, I believe you should have courtesy, respect and integrity for your political opponents."

Mr Chishti saw his share of the Tory vote increase by 5.5 per cent, as Mr Clark's slumped by more than 13 per cent. The seat was his.

The run up to the 2015 General Election will clearly be a hugely intriguing one – and non more so than in Medway, where Mr Clark is once again the main opponent.

It is the only seat in Kent where a former MP will be looking to take back what they lost to their main political opponent.



RIVALS: Former colleagues, Labour's Paul Clark lost his seat in Parliament to the now Conservative Rehman Chishti

Having held the seat from 1997 to 2010, former transport minister Mr Clark is likely to enjoy support from the higher ranks of the Labour Party in a bid to win the seat back.

Not, however, that it is a key target. Labour has made no secret its sights will be set on Dover and Chatham as it looks to regain a foothold in the true blue Kent landscape.

Mr Chishti, however, is not a man who will go down without a fight. In person he is clearly driven and supremely confident in himself.

Yet, he is capable of stumbling in pursuit of scoring some easy political points.

During our chat he says a key motivating factor in leaving Labour was Blair and Brown's spending plans; yet the global economic slowdown and problems caused by the spending did not emerge until after he had switched allegiance.

In addition, he insists the Conservative Party's immigration policy – particularly an insistence that any foreign national wishing to bring their spouse here, must ensure they earn £18,000 – is absolutely the fairest way to protect the taxpayer.

Yet when I point out that rule would have meant his own mother, and indeed he himself, would not have been allowed access all those years ago, he brushes over it, muttering that there wasn't an immigration problem in the 1980s but there is now.

His determination, however, is no doubt a key reason why David Cameron is keen to keep an eye on him.

As I pack up to go, he is swift to drop in an anecdote of how, on one of his regular runs through a nearby park, he bumped into Mr Cameron running in the opposite direction.

They chatted about how fast their best times were, with Mr Chishti exclaiming that while faster than the PM he wished he could play tennis as well as his leader, before they high-fived and went their separate ways.

Draw your own conclusion if that equates to a masterstroke of political positioning or toadying.

"I just want to be the very best MP I can be," he exclaims, "and if, as a consequence of that, David Cameron taps me on the shoulder and offers me more responsibility then so be it."

Light at end of a very dark tunnel

The closure of Chatham dockyards in 1984 had a devastating effect on thousands of lives, but **Rodney Chambers**, leader of Medway Council, says the area is now starting to feel the benefits of regeneration

IT HAS four universities, 15,000 students, an increasingly skilled workforce, fast trains to central London that take just 30 minutes, two castles, a cathedral, more festivals than anywhere in the south east and cheap housing to boot.

Where am I talking about?

Medway, of course.

It is no secret our vibrant area hit hard times back in the 1980s with the closure of Chatham's naval dockyard, throwing tens of thousands of people out of work.

Medway is still recovering from this stark part of our history, but equally it has come a long way since then.

We see regeneration continuing at pace and investors queuing up to take part in this.

So much in location, so much in its people, so much in its heritage, and so much to offer culturally.

I believe this is reflected in the fact that a number of outside investors have shown they have a huge confidence in our future.

Just the other week we saw the designs for the first phase of Chatham Waters gain planning approval. This means that Peel Holdings, one of the country's most respected developers, and the organisation behind Media City and Salford Quays in Greater Manchester, will now go ahead with this £650 million regeneration scheme.

Based on 26 acres of the Gillingham waterfront, it will see a hotel, 900 homes and office and retail space created. Importantly, it will also create up to 3,500 jobs.

On the same day, plans for a new £26m railway station at Rochester were also approved. This will allow longer trains to provide a quicker service to central London – meaning our rail transport will be sufficient for the growth in population expected in Medway over the coming decades.

The rail station will also be closer to the heart of historic Rochester, which will be good for tourists and good for local businesses.

Elsewhere, we [Medway Council] recently announced £2.9m would be invested in preparing the Chatham Waterfront site for further development, upgrading flood defences and restoring Sun Pier for future potential use as a berth for river taxis.

Less than half a mile away from Chatham Waterfront, the first homes on the Rochester Riverside site have been completed with a further £4.4m loan being used to prepare the site for the next stage of development

We do a great deal of other work to bring about regeneration and draw in investment.

And one of the things we spend a lot of time and effort on is helping and promoting Medway's great, cutting edge and diverse cultural offerings.

I have already mentioned Medway's great heritage, but we also have a very strong and active artistic community, a huge array of free festivals – from Sweeps, to Fuse to Dickens – and a very good live music scene.

In fact, we recently held a month-long festival of music to promote all that is happening in Medway, and to act as a staging post for this event for future years.

We also, of course, have our river, which runs through each of our five towns and threads the whole of Medway together.

Medway's house prices help too. After all, if you compare it to any other place as close to London with as much to offer, then I would guarantee a home there will cost a great deal more.

We're not complacent, though, Medway is only part way through its journey. It was hit hard by the dockyard closure and much of the industry connected to that. And it is still working its way through that.

But I am confident we are getting there and I would invite people to come to Medway and have a look for themselves.

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‘Political marriage’ in County Hall as new group is formed

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TWO County Hall councillors have joined forces in what they describe as a “marriage of convenience” in a bid to ensure they can play a more integral part in the decision-making process within Kent County Council.

Due to the council’s constitution, sole representatives of political parties are unable to propose motions or stand on some committees.

But to get around the ruling, Green Party councillor Martin Whybrow, who represents Hythe, and Peter Harman of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents’ Association, will now form a group call The Independents.

And among the group’s first aims is to rewrite the laws of the council which forced them to come together.

Mr Whybrow said: “As individuals we cannot be officially recognised as a party; so that was limiting what we could do.

“The constitution was written and agreed many years ago when there weren’t independent candidates and so it was proving problematic.

“This is very much a marriage of convenience, not of political allegiance, to get round some of those problems. It made sense to come together.”

The pair can now serve on committees – as they now have a replacement if one of them cannot attend – and can now both propose and second a motion.

Mr Whybrow added: “I put forward a motion recently to introduce a living wage within KCC. But because of the constitution I was unable to do so, which meant the leader of the Liberal Democrats, who had planned to second it, had to propose it and I second it.

“For the most part it’s an issue of technicalities, but it is important for what we can do as councillors.”

Mr Whybrow will be leader of the group and Mr Harman his deputy.

Mr Whybrow said: “We are working with KCC’s Democratic Services team to iron out these issues in the constitution where possible and I am grateful for their help and support.”

Peter Harman added: “This is a very positive step. Our two groups working together will allow both our organisations to be more effective at County Hall and, most importantly, will give the residents we represent an even better service from their councillors.”

Geoff Wild, KCC director of governance and law, said “The group leader will be consulted on a range of governance issues relating to the decision-making process where consultation with group leaders is necessary or appropriate: such as moving the date of a county council meeting.”

He added: “The Independents will also be able to respond to the leader’s oral report at county council meetings and to place a motion for time limited debate on the agenda for the county council.”

Mr Whybrow says the new group will look to invite any other sole representatives elected to the council, during by-elections, to join them.

Race is good for your ‘elf’

IT IS hoped hundreds of runners will take part in a special 10k charity race, and 5k fun run, at Gravesend’s Cyclopark track next weekend.

The event, dubbed the Great Elf Run, will raise money for the Beckenham-based Elimination of Leukaemia Fund (ELF).

Organisers are also staging a scooter dash for children so they can join in the run too, with the hope of raising thousands of pounds for the charity.

Sue Gofton (left), from Meopham, community fundraising manager for the charity and organiser of the event, said: “I was a Gamesmaker during London 2012 and started the event last year to keep the legacy of the Games going. I’d like as many people as possible to take part for what should be a fun day.”

For details on how to take part in the event on October 6, between 10am and noon, see the website www.leukaemiafund.org.uk/cyclopark-2013-event.

Triathlon event causes a splash in castle grounds

THOUSANDS will descend on the picturesque surroundings of Hever Castle this weekend as triathlon fever takes hold.

The sport is enjoying a huge surge in popularity at the moment, following the success of Johnny and Alistair Brownlee at London 2012.

Already well-established on the triathlon calendar, the Hever event takes place on Saturday and Sunday and features a record 1,300 children in special events, in addition to thousands of adults.

The main events include a 1,500m swim, 40k cycle and a 10k run.

For details and full results see the website:

www.castletriathlonseries.co.uk

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Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of October 8, 2013, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline telephone 0844 3572403.

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'Broke' Apprentice winner avoids £50,000 legal bill

FORMER winner of hit BBC show The Apprentice has won a fight to avoid footing a £50,000 legal bill after she lost her industrial tribunal case to ex-boss Lord Sugar.

Stella English, 34, won the £100,000 job with Lord Alan Sugar after winning the business talent show in 2010.

But the pair fell out, and after leaving his IT company Viglen a year later, she took a case claiming constructive dismissal.

A tribunal found in her former employer's favour, however, stating she had not been unfairly treated.

Mother-of-two Ms English, who lives near Whitstable, faced having to pick up a £50,000 legal bill, but an East London Tribunal Service panel ruled in her favour on Wednesday.

In an emotional plea to the court, she claimed to have just £200 in her bank account and, despite owning three properties, she had been forced to apply for housing benefit.

She claimed baliffs were set to repossess one of her homes next month.

Ms English added she was uanble to pay her mortgage and feared how she would feed her children.

In her witness statement, she said the entire episode had affected her family financially and emotionally, had a negative impact on her career prospects, and contributed to the breakdown of her marriage.

Ms English was unavailable for comment when contacted by KoS.

'Most Wanted' criminal finally jailed after first Eurotunnel arrest in 2002

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A MONEY launderer who was on the HM Revenue and Customs' 'Most Wanted' list has this week been jailed.

Anthony Judge, 40, was arrested after returning to the UK on a false passport earlier this year. He was living in Liverpool when he and two others were stopped at Eurotunnel cutoms at Cheriton in 2002.

Customs officers searched their vehicle and found euros worth more than £360,000 concealed inside a spare tyre in the boot.

When analysed, the notes showed a high level of heroin contamination.

Judge and his companions were arrested and later charged with money laundering offences.

But just as he was to stand trial in December 2003, he escaped.

He evaded capture until July 4 this year, when he flew into Heathrow using a false passport and was duly arrested.

He was jailed for 19 months at Canterbury Crown Court, receiving 12 months for money laundering and a seven-month sentence for absconding.

David Margree, assistant director, criminal investigation, at HMRC, said: "Judge probably thought he had beaten the justice system by absconding, but he was wrong.

"Vital intelligence is being received every day on our Most Wanted individuals, and we are working hard to track down each and every one of these fugitive fraudsters."

HMRC's Most Wanted list was first published last year.

New information on these individuals, plus the names of 10 more fugitives, was issued in August.

Upon sentencing, His Honour Judge James, said: "As a young man you became involved in couriering money for others. It is clear to me that there was a connection to drugs, and it seems to me you are entitled to receive the same sentence as your co-defendants."

Judge had admitted one count of money laundering by concealing another's proceeds of criminal conduct, contrary to Section 93C(2)(a) of the Criminal Justice Act 1998. He had previous pleaded guilty to absconding.

Judge's co-defendants were sentenced in January 2004, and have served their sentences.

It is believed that Judge lived in the UK whilst on the run.

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Public given rare viewing of priceless gold artefacts

Archaeological society will allow access to collection of ancient relics shrouded in mystery, as **Chris Murphy** reports

MYSTERY surrounds the origin of a priceless collection of gold neck bracelets and armbands as preparations get under way to put them on public view.

The hoard of the carefully crafted items – made up of a staggering 90 per cent pure gold and the equivalent of 20 to 24 carats by today's measuring standard – are believed to have been found somewhere in the county and date back to sometime between 2,100BC and 750BC.

The Bronze Age collection of torcs, as they are known, are so valuable they are considered priceless. But an insurance company has demanded they are covered for a minimum of £1 million.

All of which will mean tight security as they go on display until the end of the year in Dover.

There are two stories surrounding the discovery of the collection, which is currently owned by the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS),

Four of the artefacts were given to the KAS by one of its members, Edward Pretty, who bought them in 1861 from an unnamed vendor.

The story goes, and the passing of time has made it impossible to verify, they had been found in a box in the River Medway at Ferry Crossing, Aylesford.

Mr Pretty claimed the box was subsequently thrown back into the river.

Writing in the society's journal Archaeologia Cantiana, Mr Pretty said: "It is much to be lamented that a relic was lost that might in itself have been scarcely inferior to its precious contents in interest, and possibly have contributed something to their history."

Around 1869, the society was given seven more torcs by an unknown donor. These too were said to have been found at Aylesford, probably bought from antique dealers.

Two of the objects fit neatly together to form one ornament.

KAS honorary curator, Dr Andrew Richardson, explained: "What we do know is the torcs are up to 3,000 years old. It is unlikely they were found together. Sadly their provenance is lost and even the attribution to Aylesford isn't certain.

"The four torcs in the 1861 acquisition probably were found together, perhaps in the river as the story says, possibly as a result of dredging, but we cannot be sure."

As testing and aging techniques have improved, it has been discovered the 1869 acquisition is a mixture of Middle and late-Bronze Age types.

Experts have concluded they are unlikely to have been a single hoard.

They were probably acquired by dealers from various sources before being given to the KAS.

Dr Richardson said: "The torcs are important because they are among a group of rare finds of Bronze Age ornaments from southern England.

"They are further evidence that communities in Kent had access to considerable wealth and supplies of gold in this period.

"Our hoard has rarely been displayed before, certainly not during this century. The torcs are normally kept in a secure location that I'd rather not disclose."

They have been released for display at Dover Museum until the end of the year.

Over the same period, two major events in the town will focus on the Bronze Age period and even some of the earlier periods of history.

One of the main attractions will be the world-famous Dover Bronze Age Boat, unearthed during road works in 1992.

A replica has recently successfully undergone sea trials in and around the Dover harbour waters.

KAS president Ian Coulson added: "This is an appropriate time to bring our torcs to light. Normally they are kept under lock-and-key. We are displaying them to support the Boat 1550BC project, which is focused around cross-Channel connections during the Bronze Age.

"The project relies on grants and voluntary contributions and we have donated £7,500."

Legendary speed record breaker's items up for sale

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHERISHED memorabilia from the only person to ever break both the land and water high-speed records is to go up for auction.

Items belonging to Donald Campbell will go under the hammer in Canterbury next month, including a letter to a friend and a series of rare photographs.

The eagerly anticipated two-day sale at the Canterbury Auction Galleries is likely to attract considerable attention from collectors.

Mr Campbell, who claimed both records in 1964, died on January 4, 1967, during another record attempt on Coniston Water in the Lake District.

The Bluebird K7 he was driving disintegrated as he reached speeds in excess of 300mph. His body was only recovered in 2001 – still wearing the blue nylon outfit he tragically died in.

The items put up for auction belong to a collector in the county who wished to remain anonymous. Among them is a letter annotated and signed by Mr Campbell complaining about the money wasted because the Australian weather forced him to abandon his 1963 record attempt on Lake Eyre.

GOING FAST: Donald Campbell set the world land speed record driving his Bluebell car in 1964

The Campbell archive is contained in a 'Bluebird blue' album addressed to Mr Campbell's friend Desmond Hirshfield, a chartered accountant from London. It contains numerous original photographs, a copy of the menu for the dinner at the Café Royal attended by the Duke of Edinburgh in honour of Mr Campbell and the personal letter.

Dated June 4, 1963, the letter, typewritten by a secretary, is on Mr Campbell's headed paper giving his addresses in both Adelaide and Horley, Surrey. It was written while in Australia with his Bluebird-Proteus CN7 car that had been shipped to Lake Eyre in south Australia at the end of 1962.

Low-speed runs had started when rains arrived turning the firm salt lake bed into mush. By May 1963, the lake, the lowest point in the county which rarely filled with any water at all, was flooded to a depth of three inches, forcing Campbell to abandon the attempt.

He was heavily criticised in the media for time wasting and mismanagement of the project.

The letter says: "Here, life is thoroughly depressing, as we continue to search for an alternative to Lake Eyre. Rain continues to fall, and Adelaide, in fact, had the wettest May for a great number of years. The Lake Eyre endeavour cost approximately £42,000, and we will undoubtedly experience the same difficulty encountered at the end of last year."

It ends with the typed words "Yours sincerely Donald Campbell", which is then crossed out with Mr Campbell signing it in blue ink "Yours ever Donald".

The letters and documents will be sold when the sale takes place on October 8-9.

Pictures: MARK ROE, PAUL JERREAT, MARK RUNYON

HIT: The Forum has a reputation for showcasing bands before they made it, such as Coldplay (below)

Forum flushed with success but is still in the red

From public toilet to award-winner, The Forum in Tunbridge Wells has been a breeding ground for some of the biggest stars as **Chris Murphy** reports

AMID the rather momentous events to take place in 1939, you could be forgiven for overlooking the opening of a public toilet in Tunbridge Wells.

And, for the next 50 years or so it lived a rather modest existence; perched on the edge of the royal town's picturesque Common and close enough to the Pantiles for it to be the ideal place to spend the proverbial penny.

But in the early 1990s, having closed the doors of the ladies' and gents' for the very last time, the venue morphed into something all the more noteworthy.

Where once stood the – albeit rather large – public toilet, by 1993 was the county's latest live music venue. Where the ladies' loos were once was now a stage and green room for the performers. The gents' cleared to become the ticket office.

And, since then, the venue has developed a remarkable reputation for acting as a springboard for some of the biggest names in the business.

Treading the boards in their early years have been the likes of Coldplay, Oasis, Muse, Mumford & Sons, the Libertines, Ellie Goulding and the multi-million selling Adele.

And that is just a handful of names who have swapped The Forum's modest surrounds for the big-ticket likes of Wembley Stadium and the O2.

No mean feat for a venue which boasts a standing capacity of just 250 – and which has become the perfect place to watch an intimate performance by an act touted as promising today and potentially a global hit tomorrow.

Its remarkable track record was acknowledged in 2012 when music bible the NME named The Forum Britain's Best Small Venue of the Year, beating off competition from fast-rising destinations in London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Bristol among others.

"When you look back on the list of bands that played here, when they were growing, it is easy to see why places like this have an important place in the industry," explains Jason Dormon, one of the four original founders of The Forum.

"More should be done to support our type of venue. No one jumps to the big venues; they learn their stage craft here."

The Forum was formed by four friends; Michael Oyarzabal, Peter Hoare, Mark Davyd and Mr Dormon. Only the latter two remain wedded to the venture.

Mr Dormon, 42, explains: "There wasn't enough money for the four of us. Peter now does antiques and Mike's a computer programmer."

The venue was born from the success of The Rumble Club which had done its best to bring the vibrant pre-Britpop indie music scene to a town more synonymous with its architecture and rich royal history than guitar bands.

The Rumble Club had been staged at various locations in the town, attracting performances from the likes of the Boo Radleys, Lush and US rockers Green Day. And then the former public toilet proved the perfect, if unlikely, venue to capitalise on the success.

Not that in the 20 years it has existed it has all been smooth and easy. The Forum fails to turn a profit and regularly loses money. Mr Dormon's accountant regularly urges him to sell up and cut his losses.

But the bassist is determined to keep the faith.

He explains: "This is a labour of love for us. The future is to stabilise business so we can keep going for another 20 years. How we do that, I am not sure. We would like to set up a charity or music trust to keep new music coming through.

"Place like this are the lifeblood of good music – without the smaller venues, smaller bands would never be heard and the industry would suffer as a result.

"A lot of small venues are closing around the country and that is tragic. It is important they stay afloat to help grow new musical talent."

Adds the married father-of-two: "I am amazed we are still here after 20 years, but we work hard to keep The Forum high on the concert circuit.

"We are known to many people in the business, and they are keen to have bands play here.

"I have always wanted to have a place like this; I love it here. We may be making losses every year, with none of us taking money out, but being here during a concert is still a thrill. I can't give that up – none of us can."

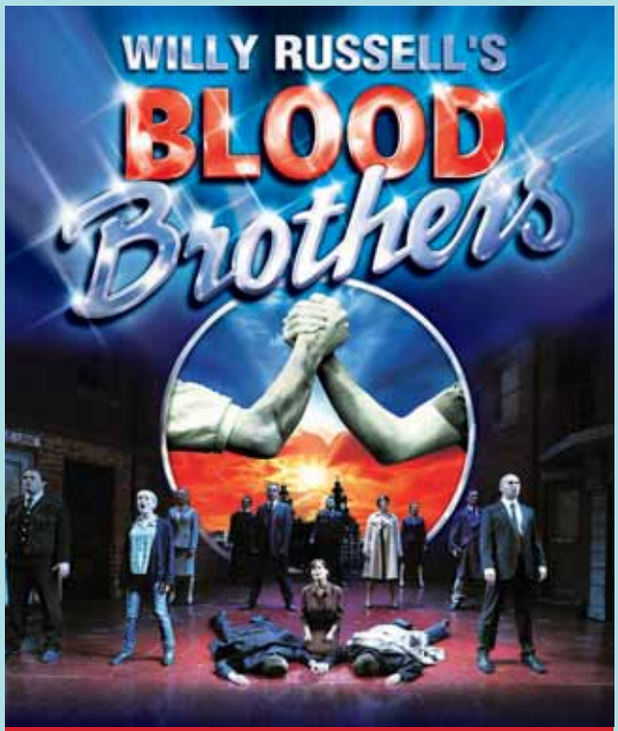
■ See www.twforum.co.uk to find out more about the venue and upcoming shows.

RAV4 still safe and sound

Toyota's original 'soft roader' is evolving

driving page 67 »

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AT CHURCHILL THEATRE BROMLEY



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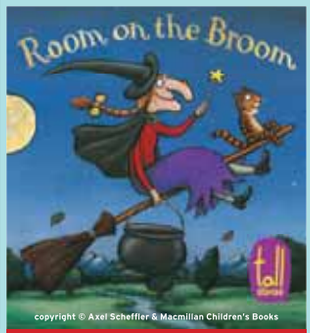
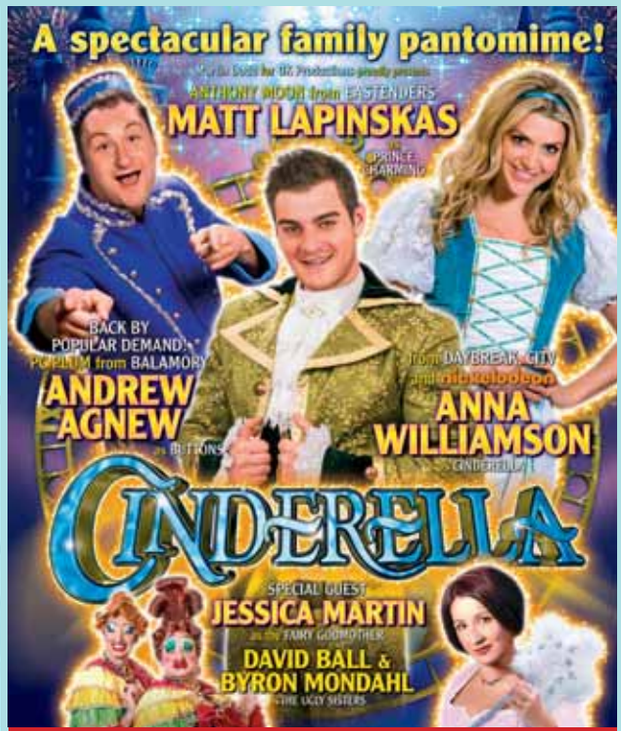
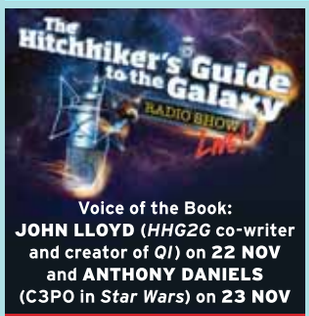


ROOM ON A BROOM
WED 6 - SAT 9 NOV



CINDERELLA
FRI 29 NOV - SUN 5 JAN



Voice of the Book:
JOHN LLOYD (*HHG2G* co-writer and creator of *QI*) on **22 NOV**
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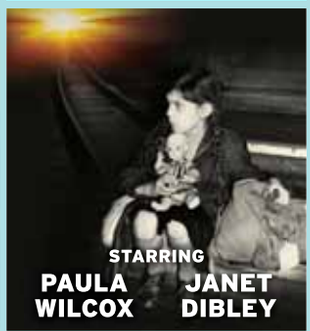
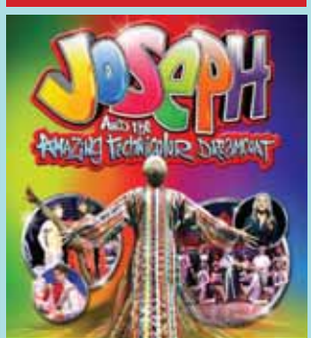
THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
FRI 22 - SAT 23 NOV

HAPPY DAYS
MON 13 - SAT 18 JAN

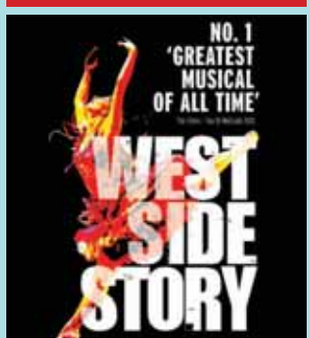


KINDERTRANSPORT
WED 22 - SAT 25 JAN

BUDDY
TUE 28 JAN - SAT 1 FEB

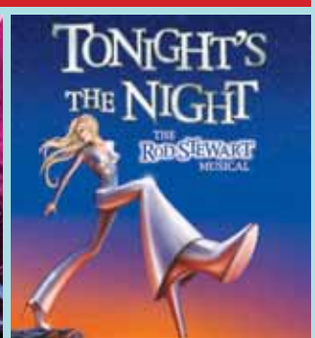


JOSEPH
TUE 11 - SAT 15 FEB



WEST SIDE STORY
TUE 4 - SAT 8 MAR

RUSSIAN BALLET
THU 20 - SAT 22 MAR



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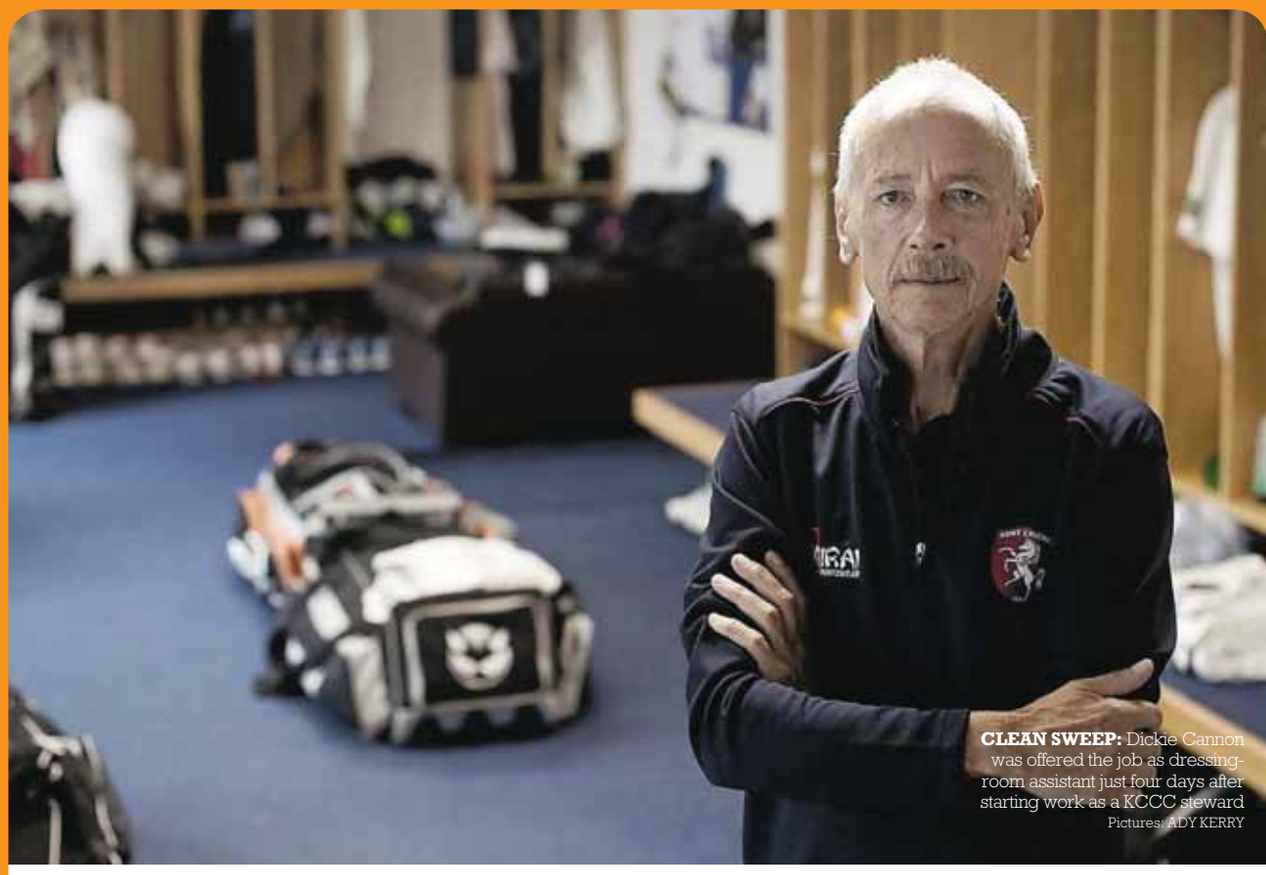

CLEAN SWEEP: Dickie Cannon was offered the job as dressing-room assistant just four days after starting work as a KCCC steward
Pictures: ADY KERRY

Retirement holds no boundaries for Dickie

After 12 years at Kent County Cricket Club, dressing-room assistant Dickie Cannon is leaving to embark on a new chapter in his life and, as **Greg Miles** found out, Mt Everest is up first

HE IS often the first in, the last out and sometimes he doesn't go home at all.

Dickie Cannon is a vital cog in the machine that keeps Kent County Cricket Club ticking.

But after 12 seasons, the county's stars will have to find someone else to tidy up after them and do their washing as the 65-year-old dressing-room assistant is retiring at the end of this season.

The Sevenoaks-born man, who lives a remarkably frugal lifestyle away from cricket and runs an internet forum with thousands of followers sharing their tips on sustainable living, is embarking on a new chapter of his life, with the first paragraphs to be taken up by a dream trip to see Mount Everest next month.

He also has two books to his name. One covers his experience of getting out of the rat race and the other cycling for the over-60s, inspired after he took on the challenge of pedalling from John O'Groats to Land's End in 2011.

You, as I did, may wonder how you become a dressing-room assistant, but it was not a role Cannon saw himself going into either. It came about after ill-health and personal tragedy saw him leave his secure job working on the railway to try his hand as a steward at Canterbury's St Lawrence Ground in 2002.

"On about my fourth day, Simon Willis [Kent's high-performance director] asked me if I would like to be the dressing-room attendant.

"I'm still convinced he only asked me because I was the youngest there," he said. "I remember Simon saying to me 'There's the keys, there's the room, it just needs to be kept tidy'. I walked in and could not believe the state of it."

Whether it is the dressing-room code, or fear, he remains tight-lipped on who is the main culprit in keeping him busy.

"I can't say. I like to say not that they're messy but they have their own methods of an organised slot, if you like," he said.

"I am usually second in after the ground staff, but I am usually the last one out. I probably sleep here about five nights a year.

"If it's around 10.15pm you think 'If I go home it's going to be 11pm, sleep, then up at 6am and come in'. So you will find I've always got a sleeping-bag here.

"You've got TV, showers and the microwave, so it's not too bad.

"It has it's ups and downs – you get the tense times. After a while you tend to get to know how you're going to talk to somebody.

"It isn't advisable for the room attendant, a couple of minutes after a batsman's got out, to go up and say 'Shall we have a nice cup of tea, then?'. You get to know who's who and the wherefores."

> "You've seen a lot of them [the players] as a young single man who's had a girlfriend, wife, baby, and then a dog"

Seeing the transformations in the players has provided some of the greatest moments for Cannon.

"I can remember my first season here – there was Fabian Cowdrey and his younger brother on the balcony mucking around.

"I used to think 'Oh, the kids'. Now he's in the squad – he's been in the T20 team this season.

"In my first season, in the second XI we had Jonesy [former England wicketkeeper Geraint Jones] and Tredders [Kent captain and England bowler James Tredwell] and I think that's been another joy of it – you've seen a lot of them as a young single man who's had a girlfriend, wife, then a baby and then a dog.

"You see a very special time of a person's life. The only surviving

Continued on page 43 »

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« Continued from page 41

first-team player that is still here since I joined is Keysey [former captain Rob Key]. It's a strange thing because you've got the team, which is a family. It is a fascinating atmosphere to be in.

"You do notice the mentoring that goes on. It's so nice to see that."

The first thing on his to-do list is a trip to Kathmandu in Nepal, from where he hopes to go and see Mount Everest.

It is a dream that sprang from a stay in hospital as a child when having his tonsils out.

"The day after the Queen's Coronation [in 1953] I had to go into Sevenoaks hospital to have my tonsils out," he said.

"The nurse showed me a photograph of the climbing of Mt Everest by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing. I remember I used to make the shape of the mountain using my knees below the sheets.

"It's clear as day. I remember saying 'One day I shall go there'. It's only taken me 60 years!

"There are boxes you have to tick, and for some of those you need to be reasonably healthy, like the cycle ride I did last year."

It is a dream that may not have been possible if he were in his old job on the railway.

"I ran six of the stations. I had a staff of 130. I had an extremely good, secure job. But I suddenly said no – it was a bit of the 1960s coming out in me."

His change in circumstance brought about a new way of life.

"I wasn't out to be self-sufficient, but self-reliant," he said.

"I said to myself 'I will throw in the job and do whatever comes along'. For about the first eight years it was really difficult – I was extremely poor.

"This is only a summer job, you see, and so it was extremely hard to make ends meet.

"I think you learn, but even now I'm probably earning a third short of the amount I was in the year 2000... but I survive a hell of a lot better now.

"As soon as you have the realisation you're in charge of your own destiny you change.

"I'm a fairly happy man now. I would much rather be sitting here than inside an office on the railway station."

His new take on life coincided with the start of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage TV series, which inspired him to take up a greener way of living.

He said: "In terms of vegetables I'm self-sufficient the whole year round. From the veg I make chutneys and relishes, from the fruit I'm 100 per cent self-sufficient with jams.

"I also forage and have an old 1948 Rayburn wood-burner.

"Then there are the chickens for eggs. Waste food I feed back to the chickens, the chickens' poo goes to the compost. It's a big cycle, really."

Cannon's frugal living then found its way to the internet.

It started out as an idea to keep in touch with family and friends through a self-created internet forum but morphed into an internationally-used website for more than 6,000 signed-up members.

His Down The Lane website (www.downthelane.net) is a meeting place for people to share their ideas about being self-sufficient, living off the land and more.

"It was something to do, really. I saw a website software programme and so I thought I would simply do it for the family. I had about 16 or so pages. I started that in 2000 and now it's got about 2,500 pages and a forum of up to 64,000 threads.

"I get 6,000 visits a day and the forum has 6,500 members."

> "I think life is about chapters and using your head – you know when you should be moving on to the next chapter"

His creative muscles have not stopped there as he looks to take on the challenge of penning two books.

"I am supposed to be writing a book about the cycle ride, as in for over-60s solo cyclists.

"I think a lot of things are over-complicated. If you like to cycle you could spend weeks and weeks reading books, buying the right things, but at the end of the day you take your bike up to John O'Groats, sit on the saddle and start cycling. I didn't pre-book a single B&B – I just went up there and started cycling.

"The second book is more about the downshifting side, escaping the rat race, the things to watch.

"There are a lot of things where you can talk and talk about something, but it's about doing it. All the time you're talking about it, you're not doing it.

"I think life is about chapters and using your head. I think you know when you should be moving on to the next chapter."

Cannon has some advice for whoever takes up his former role.

"There are three people you should never fall out with at the club. One is the person who puts the money in your bank, secondly the chef and thirdly the physio. Those are the three vital people at Kent County Cricket Club to keep in with."

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Bradley's Wishy Washy performance taught him important lesson

Picture: MEL COX

Cinderella
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
December 14-January 4, 2014

He's come a long way since being described as wooden in his first panto review, but Bradley Walsh can't wait to take to the stage in his new role as Buttons, as **Greg Miles** discovered…

A SCATHING review of his first-ever panto could have held back a young Bradley Walsh, but the comedian is obviously made of sterner stuff.

He quickly bounced back after being labelled "very wooden" when appearing alongside dancer Wayne Sleep in Norwich in 1987.

The only way has been up for the former Pontins bluecoat ever since.

Stand-up comedy followed, as did Wheel of Fortune, Coronation Street, a role in the film Mike Bassett: England Manager, the lead part in crime drama Law & Order UK and the role of presenting ITV quiz show The Chase.

Next up he is back in panto leading the cast of Cinderella as Buttons at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford.

It is the perfect gig for the 53-year-old, who had to quit his football career at Brentford as a teenager through injury, with it being a short drive from his home in Essex.

"The appeal for me to be working at home at Christmas was fantastic," he said. "I had two years off [at Christmas] where I sat at home, but I get itchy feet and like to be working, so it's the perfect scenario."

A trip to the pantomime was a tradition for a young Walsh, but it was a visit to the London Palladium that sparked his imagination for the stage.

"I used to go the Palace Theatre in Watford to see the shows with my mum. It was great, brilliant.

"In 1974 my mum took me to see Hans Andersen with Tommy Steele at the Palladium. I said if I never play football this is what I want to do. I got to do both.

"If we can bring entertainment to Dartford, that's what it's all about. I get a big kick out of doing panto.

"It's about getting on stage, having some fun and letting your hair down – it's the only chance I get in my job. In my day job presenting The Chase you have to be on the ball, and Law & Order is serious.

"You're constantly readjusting your personality to the gig. But this is me, messing around for two hours and having fun."

The experience of his first part in panto is put down as a lesson learnt.

"I remember my review in Norwich, where I was Wishy Washy.

> "If you make the mistake and learn from it, it becomes a lesson, but if you do it again you're just an idiot"

It said 'Bradley Walsh was very, very wooden'. I guess they were right. The reason they were right was I hadn't done one before and I wasn't being me – I was taking the stage direction to get it right for the director.

"I needed to be a bit more free. You've got to learn, there's no point in just not learning. If you make the mistake and learn from it, it becomes a lesson, but if you do it again you're just an idiot."

Directed by Jon Conway, Cinderella also stars West End actress Louise English as the Fairy Godmother.

Barry Hester returns as Dandini, the Prince's right-hand man, after starring as Widow Twankey in Aladdin last year.

■ Cinderella runs at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from Saturday, December 14, to Saturday, January 4.

Tickets are priced between £15 and £32. To book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone 01322 220000.

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A volume of architecture

Greg Miles talks to the man whose book can help us all learn about and treasure the county's finest buildings

STRIKING: From left: Waterloo Tower at Quex Park, Birchington; Tower Lodge at Eastwell; Canterbury Cathedral; Droit House and Turner Contemporary in Margate
Pictures: ANGELO HORNAK

BECOMING the chauffeur to one of Britain's most famed architectural historians had a life-changing impact on a young John Newman in the 1960s.

When Sir Nikolaus Pevsner advertised for a driver, Newman barely hesitated and set about taking the German-born authority on architecture around the country to compile his Buildings of England series, which he started in 1951.

After helping Sir Nikolaus, Newman was then given the privilege of writing the Kent version of the book, published in 1969, which charts architecture on a county-by-county basis.

The revision of the series has been an ongoing project since then. The latest under the microscope is Kent: North East and East, which comes out on Tuesday, October 15.

"It just so happened I got to know Sir Nikolaus Pevsner after his wife died in 1964. He advertised for a driver to drive him for a week in Berkshire," said the 76-year-old.

"How was he going to continue this series county by county on his own? He couldn't. I had this opportunity thrust upon me by surprise. I drove him for a whole month in Hampshire and he asked if I would like to write a book.

"He didn't particularly want to do Kent – he didn't like the Home Counties. According to his ideas, there was too much built over. He much preferred open country and wanted it to be done by someone else.

"It was a stroke of luck that transformed my life."

The book explores the architectural gems on offer in east and north-east Kent, including the seaside towns and the places such as Canterbury with its cathedral.

"Kent is a county I think has got a great deal going for it. And it's not so built-up and suburbanised as other counties," said Newman. "You can get away from it and don't realise that London is only a train ride away.

"The experts would think it has one building of prime importance, Canterbury Cathedral. It has not only the splendid architecture but the medieval stained glass and monuments of archbishops.

"If you're pointing someone to the very best of English architecture, you could do no better than point them towards Canterbury Cathedral."

Revisiting the series has given Newman the chance to reflect on what has changed since the first edition in 1964.

"When I did it the first time, post-war modernism was the flavour," he said. "There were lots of

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with few equals

big school-building programmes. Some have fallen down and others are horribly mangled and have lost their character.

"What's happened in the last 40 years is there is much more variety. I think the last 15 years we have got some splendid buildings, like the Turner Contemporary. It's a highly personal building in a dramatic position.

"There is also the Saga headquarters at Sandgate, which is the brainchild of Roger De Haan. He's put a lot of money into cultural buildings.

"The trend of holiday architecture is quite a remarkable phenomenon. Margate was one of the very first seaside resorts. Ramsgate is even grander, with early 19th-century terraces.

"The most outstanding piece of Regency-inspired terrace is at Dover, at Waterloo Crescent from the 1840s.

"One thing that hasn't survived terribly well is Victorian industry. There were some wonderful breweries in Maidstone that were pulled down for the new roads."

■ The Buildings of England – Kent: North East and East is out on October 15, published by Yale University Press.

Time Out Top Ten

1 The Marlowe, Canterbury
Saturday, October 5
www.marlowetheatre.com
Phone: 01227 787787

Simmy Munnery: Fylm: Comedy show looking at film and theatre. Tickets £12, starts 8pm.

2 The North Barn, The Friars, Aylesford
Sunday, October 6
www.uniqueafayre.co.uk

A Unique A-Fayre: Homeware, interiors and lifestyle fair in aid of the Heart of Kent Hospice.

3 Tower Theatre, North Road, Shorncliffe
Thursday, October 3
Phone: 01303 260330

The Peter King Quartet: World-class alto saxophonist and his band. Tickets £10, starts 8.30pm

4 Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thursday, October 3
Phone: 01892 678678

Giltrap and Wakeman: Guitar legend and Yes keyboardist join forces. Tickets £16, starts 8pm.

5 Winter Gardens, Margate
Sunday, October 6
Phone: 01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

Snow White: World premiere by the Vienna Festival Ballet.Tickets £18.50, starts at 5pm.

6 Hazlitt, Maidstone
Wed to Sat, October 2-5
Phone: 01622 758611
www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

Jekyll & Hyde The Musical: Production by Gillingham Dramatic Society. Tickets £10-£14.

7 Theatre Royal Margate
Wednesday, October 2
Phone: 01843 292795
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

Winston on the Run: The story of Winston Churchill's early life. Tickets £12, starts 7.30pm.

8 Broadstairs
Fri to Sat, October 4-6
Phone: 01843 871102
www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk

Broadstairs Food Festival: Three-day food festival around the seaside town with hundreds of stalls.

9 Kent Life, Maidstone
Sat and Sun, October 5-6
Phone: 01622 763936
www.kentlifeorg.uk

Apple and Cider Fair: An array of apples – learn about juicing and cider-making. Also live music.

10 Britannia, Chatham
Friday, October 4
Phone: 0844 858 6656
www.britanniatheatrechatham.co.uk

Jongleurs Comedy Club: Enjoy two hours of comedy from world-renowned performers.

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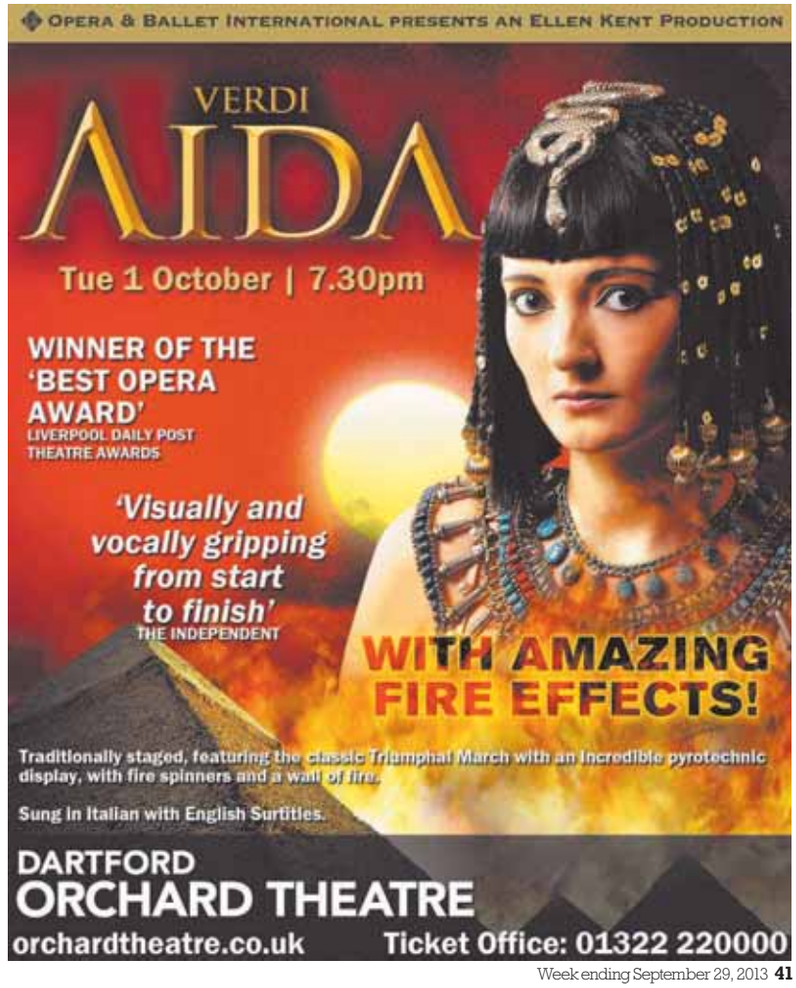


Has Paul got some impro for you

Paul Merton's Impro Chums
The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Saturday, October 5
Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, November 10

SPUR OF THE MOMENT: Paul Merton and his improvisation chums

IT'S the ability to make every show unique that keeps Paul Merton coming back for more when it comes to improvisation.

Ten years on from when his show Paul Merton's Impro Chums started, the Have I Got News For You star still has the thirst for what could be considered comedy's most challenging form.

"With scripted material, you've got things to worry about – there's a constant puzzle about how to keep things fresh. You could be stuck with something that doesn't work, whereas with impro you're keeping it fresh. You don't know what's coming," said the 56-year-old.

High on audience participation, the show takes on whatever suggestions come in, with various games to play along with.

With wife Suki Webster and colleagues Lee Simpson, Richard Vranch and Mike McShane, they keep each other guessing.

"I remember the first time we did an impro show, we had Mike Myers of Austin Powers fame – he had done a lot of it before and working with him on stage was phenomenal," he said. "We didn't have to do anything, we just worked around him.

"Once he went we suddenly realised we had to do it ourselves. The first few times I thought it's impossible – you have to make it up and be funny.

"There are certain things people will always say. If you ask for a style of fiction, nearly everybody will say Harry Potter. For a household object, inevitably they say a toilet brush.

"Once you've done one Harry Potter parody, it's difficult to know how to do it again."

In the beginning there was a cynical feeling that the shows were scripted, which Merton, who found fame on the original impro show Whose Line Is It Anyway?, is glad has now passed.

"We've gone past the point of people wondering whether it's improvised," he said. "They realised it would be harder to pretend we're improvising and go into a source of jokes we'd done over the years.

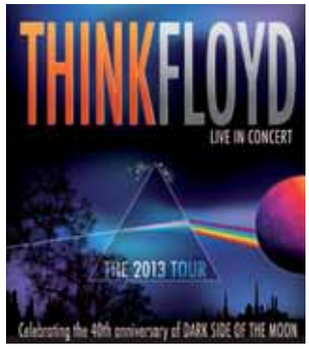
"The thing with the impro show is it's difficult to remember the things you've done because of the nature of what you're doing. After the show's finished, it's difficult to recall anything you've said. You don't remember any of it because your brain knows you don't have to.

"People come up at the end of the show and say I really liked the budgie impersonating Tom Jones and you have to struggle to remember."

The instant feedback about whether something is funny plays an important role, with Merton pleased to see it cut out the middle man.

"Audiences laugh or they don't," he said. "You don't have to go to a focus group or redraft it. It's the ultimate freedom and the ultimate response. You don't have to ask anybody's permission. If they don't laugh, it's saved us a load of meetings. You get a reaction good or bad."

■ Tickets for Paul Merton's Impro Chums are priced at £21. For the Canterbury show, visit www.marlowetheatre.com or call 01227 787787. For Tunbridge Wells, visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone 01892 530613.



Floyd genius still shines

Think Floyd
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Sunday, October 6

THE UK's No 1 Pink Floyd tribute show is coming to the county for one night only next month.

Think Floyd are now in their 20th year and celebrating another milestone in the life of their idols: the 40th anniversary of one of the most influential albums of all time, Dark Side of the Moon.

The album will be performed in its entirety, complete with a laser light show, along with music from The Wall, Animals, Wish You Were Here, Meddle, The Division Bell and more.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Visit www.thinkfloyd.net or phone 01322 220000 to book tickets.

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For families there is a superb carvery booked for Christmas Day – all you can eat – and a visit from Santa for children, big and not so big.

Bedrooms are on offer from £75 to anyone attending one of the party nights and this will include full use of the Otium health club and a full breakfast to get you started the next day.

The programme finishes on New Year's Eve with a black-tie gala ball in the event suite that will ensure that you see in 2014 in true style.

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Come on in from the cold – warm up the festivities with the sunny Hawaiian beach party-themed night. Alternatively, you can enjoy Michael Dublé... the UK's most credible Michael Bublé tribute act!

And if you really want to get your flares on, why not consider the 70s disco-themed party?

New Year's Black Tie Gala Ball is the ultimate glamorous New Year party. Enjoy a scrumptious five-course dinner and sensational sounds from the band Funkty Dumpty and party until 2am.

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Mercure

The Monster Christmas Ball
Telephone: 01227 701042 www.kentchristmasparty.com

Showground's monster bash

THE Monster Christmas Ball is back for its fourth consecutive year, with tickets priced at just £49.50 per person (including VAT).

One fully-inclusive ticket price includes entrance to the purpose-built, fully-themed traditional Christmas party venue, complimentary welcome drinks and canapés and a four-course traditional Christmas dinner including a vegetarian option.

Wine is included with your meal and coffee and mince pies are served after dessert.

There is also a fun casino and live music, plus DJ and dancing in the Monster Christmas Ball nightclub.

The event is held at The Faversham Showground, which is conveniently located just off the A2/M2/A299 junction with free parking on site.

The event runs from December 6-20; up-to-date availability can be checked online at www.kentchristmasparty.com or by phoning 01227 701042.

Shared group and exclusive large group bookings are available, making the Monster Christmas Ball the ideal destination for your Christmas party this season.

Check the website for full event information or to view the Christmas menu and check details of exclusive travel deals to and from the venue that have been negotiated with UK Mobile Bars' travel partner.

DICKENS World will be transformed into a winter wonderland for visitors with an indoor ice rink, making a great Christmas day out for the family.

Choose the Britannia Theatre for your Christmas party with a varied selection of themed party nights – you can go for a Greek night, a Wild West with Bucking Bronco night or go back to the 60s and 70s.

All nights include a three-course meal and live entertainment, followed by a disco until late.

Lastly there is the pantomime Aladdin.

Pantomime at the Britannia Theatre is a truly magical family experience.

A hot dog and soft drink is provided to all ticket-holders before the show.

Wait... there's more!

Children do not have to sit bored in their seats – let them get involved and have fun dancing and singing in the theatre with their favourite characters.

There are also opportunities to have photos taken with the characters after the show, so make sure you bring a camera.

Pantomime at the Britannia Theatre offers outstanding value for money.

Aladdin will be showing on selected dates throughout December 2013. See the website!

From the Wild West to Aladdin, Christmas guarantees a fun time

Dickens World
www.dickensworld.co.uk

The Red Lion at Hernhill
Telephone: 01227 751207 www.theredlion.org.uk

Best for festive village fare

THE picturesque 14th-century Red Lion pub, in the village of Hernhill near Faversham, dates back to the 1300s and still contains many original features.

It offers a selection of traditional English food alongside the frequently-changing seasonal specials.

Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the village green and a well-established pub garden.

The function room and new restaurant are the perfect place to host your Christmas party – fantastic service and a choice of great food for all of your festive fun. The warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.

The Christmas menu is priced at £26.95 per head. Should you decide to book for Christmas, please phone to book your date or contact the pub through www.theredlion.org.uk.

For parties of 10 or more, a £10-per-head non-returnable deposit is required, which can be forwarded once you have booked.

CHRISTMAS is a great excuse for a party with your friends and family – and Thorley Taverns are the best places to celebrate.

They have the perfect venue for your festive feast at their great inns and hotels in Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

In Broadstairs, the Captain Digby family pub and restaurant overlooks romantic Kingsgate Bay. It dates back to the 1760s and is named after a nephew of Lord Holland.

The Pavilion in Harbour Street has an enviable situation on picturesque Viking Bay and has hosted many fantastic parties.

Just round the corner is The Tartar Frigate, renowned for its seafood, with a roaring fire in the bar to welcome you in from winter's blast.

A few minutes away in Victoria Parade is The Charles Dickens, named after Broadstairs's most famous resident and which was completely refurbished last year.

Its Copperfields restaurant upstairs has commanding views of the bay.

In Ramsgate you are also spoilt for choice... between the Pegwell Bay Hotel and The Oak Hotel & Restaurant 66.

The Pegwell Bay Hotel, near Ramsgate and overlooking Pegwell Bay, won the Pride of Thanet award in 2011.

It has everything you need for a perfect Christmas party, including dinner and dancing and the option of an overnight stay.

The Oak Hotel & Restaurant 66 is in the heart of Ramsgate and overlooks the Royal Harbour. Again, you can stay overnight and have a dance if your party has a minimum of 30 people.

Both hotels offer 10 per cent off room rates when booked with a Christmas party.

As you would expect from Thorley Taverns, all food is top-notch and incredible value for money, with prices starting from as little as £19.95 a head for a three-course meal including starter, traditional roast, fish or vegetarian option and pudding.

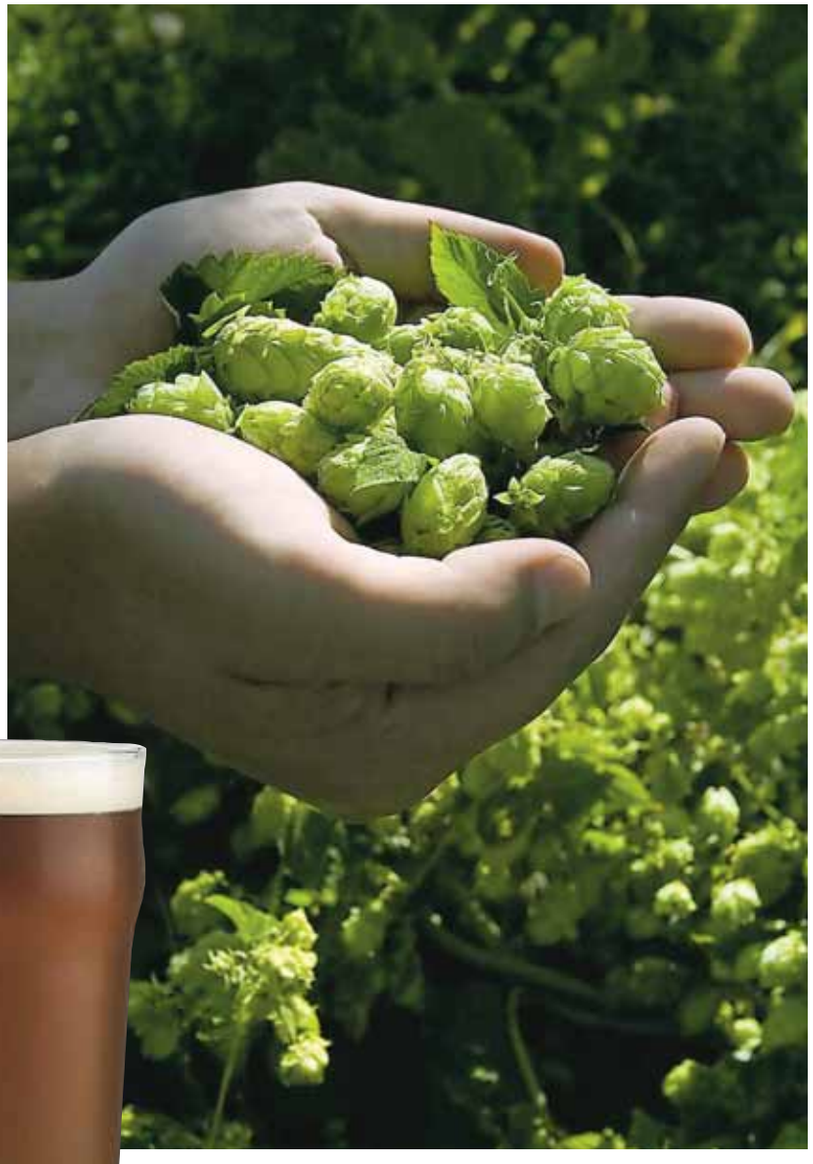
For more details, contact each venue. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Offering a variety of places to get those party celebrations started

Thorley Taverns
www.thorleytaverns.co.uk

Experts pull together to serve the mighty hop

Symposium focuses on the challenges and opportunities facing the brewing industry as microbreweries spark an increase in variety, writes **Greg Miles**



ONE of Kent's greatest products is being put under the microscope by industry experts at a newly-formed convention.

The Hop Symposium will see the great and the good converge on Faversham for the expansion of the traditional hop-blessing ceremony.

Shepherd Neame has traditionally held a gathering every harvest time with a blessing of the hops at Ospringe church and a lunch for growers. However, this year has taken on greater significance, with the intention for growers and brewers to share and learn more about how the industry is changing under the Hop Symposium umbrella, being held on Thursday, October 3.

Shepherd Neame head brewer Richard Frost feels it will be a valuable day for experts to discuss the industry's past, present and future.

"The symposium is a chance for me to find out about Kent hops and what hop-growers are up to and their challenges," he said.

It is certainly a changing time for breweries, with more competition than ever and a huge increase in variety.

"Nationally, beer consumption is in decline and has been for decades. But what we are seeing is a growth in types and styles," said Frost. "We have seen a huge increase in the number of microbreweries. It has been helped because if a brewery is below a certain output it pays a reduced duty rate.

"The Government put that in to encourage people to start up and give smaller brands the chance to compete. There are more than 1,000 in the country. There are 20-odd breweries in Kent, including ourselves."

Frost feels it has been helped by a trend across the pond, which itself has led to a greater variety of drinks for punters to choose from.

"America is a good example. A few years ago there were no American microbreweries and it was dominated by three or four big companies," he said. "They are now seeing a decline and lots more microbreweries, some of which are no longer micro and have been very successful.

"There are all sorts of things out there. I think beer is still a long drink – by that I mean when you have a beer it should be one you would like another of. You need to be very careful with the use of other flavours so that it doesn't become unpleasant. The flavour has to be subtle.

"I think the public is ready to experiment and try different things. If you think back to when you started drinking years ago you would drink what your dad had – you had no choice. You would never do that now. People are prepared to brand-swap more and drink brands from other towns.

"I always take the view that it's about sweetness and bitterness and you overlay that with hoppy aromas and flavours, but there's nothing to stop you using something else.

"It's quite exciting to see what works and what doesn't."

The Hop Symposium is supported by the British Guild of Beer Writers, the British Hop Association and TG Redsell Ltd.

It will feature the Goldings Lecture, delivered by east Kent hop-farmer Tony Redsell OBE. Ali Capper from the British Hop Association will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, while David Wilson from the British Beer and Pub Association will talk about work going on to promote the entire beer category through the new Let There Be Beer campaign.

Eddie Gadd, from the Ramsgate Brewery, will talk about the Kent Green Hop Beer Fortnight, during which 20 Kent brewers each brew ales using fresh, undried hops picked within 12 hours of brewing.

Who has been nominated for a food award?

IT'S all starting to unravel! This week we reveal the first batch of finalists in the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards.

We know, we know... we have kept you on tenterhooks for weeks after the nominations deadline, but we are thrilled to announce the first 21 finalists of the competition, sponsored by MBK Design Studios.

Our judges have short-listed three finalists in each category and we hope you agree that all are worthy of their places in the final – a celebration of the finest of the county's plethora of food and drink venues, retailers and producers.

All areas of the industry feature, while there is a special honour for the hero of the Kent food and drink community.

All finalists are invited to the awards evening in November, when they will discover how they fared.

We are, however, stretching anticipation levels just a little more for the finalists in the last categories and will name them next month.

The remaining categories include those for newcomer, butcher, food and drink producer, food and drink hero and farmers' market.

The awards event will be in the plush setting of Tudor Park Hotel in Maidstone on Thursday, November 14, from 6.30pm until midnight.

Proceedings will take place in the venue's Thurnham Suite and include a three-course meal prepared by executive head chef Tom Biddle.

Such has been the excitement generated by the competition that tickets for the evening have sold out. We will, however, keep you informed about everything. Don't look away!

THE FIRST FINALISTS

Independent retailer
63 Harbour Street, Whitstable
Cookietastic
Macknade Fine Foods, Faversham

Farm shop of the year
Quex Barn Farm Shop, Birchington
Stanhill Farm Shop, Dartford
The Barnyard and Gore Farm, Upchurch

Tea shop of the year
Mrs Knott's Tea Room, St Margaret's
The Lavender Tea House, Folkestone
Fir Tree House Tea Room, Penshurst

Chef of the year
Tom Batt, of Deeson's, Canterbury
Graham Garrett, of The West House Restaurant, Biddenden
Charlie Lakin, of The Marquis at Alkham, Alkham

Family dining venue
Little Brown Jug, Tonbridge
The Waggon at Hale, Chatham
Bow's Kitchen, Margate

Pub of the year
The Three Tuns, Lower Halstow
Five Bells Inn, Brabourne
The Vineyard, Lamberhurst

Restaurant of the year
Thackerays, Tunbridge Wells
The Ambrette, Margate
Culpepers @ Chilston Park, Maidstone

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The Brit tapas venture that is sprinkling a little stardust

Salt

Location: Canterbury

Reviewed by **JOE BILL**

THERE is something going on in Kent's restaurants and I'm not entirely sure if it's a very, very new trend or a very old trend that I'm just grabbing the coat-tails of – tapas.

No, not the traditional fare hailing from the France-Spain border. It's more the concept of tapas or meze that I'm talking about, but we Brits don't seem to have a word for it.

Well, whatever we want to call our version of it, British tapas is hitting the menus and, by the look of things, it's changing the way we view our dining experiences.

Far from the patatas bravas-type dish, tiny roast dinners and miniature fish and chips are veering us away from the classic three-course format of starters, mains and desserts. And Canterbury's latest arrival, Salt, has caught on to the trend.

To have a bustling restaurant after just three months' service suggests that Salt has captured the city's imagination. A simple converted shop, with open kitchen, 10 or so tables and blackboard menu, fits with the popular style of modern eateries.

We were invited to try some of the in-house pilsner lager, brewed in Maidstone – superb.

One of Salt's policies is that all of its tapas-style dishes are priced between £2 and £7, making it affordable for anyone looking for a tasty meal as well as an easy option for trying a number of dishes.

First up were goat's-cheese balls baked and covered with almonds. The creamy cheese was melt-in-the mouth and set off nicely with by the almonds.

This was followed by marinated herring fillet with pickled quails' eggs. The sharp dressing on the fish was salty and worked perfectly with the tangy vinegar of the pickled eggs.

Chargrilled summer vegetables brought back that summer-barbecue taste with griddle-marked courgettes, tomatoes, peppers and spinach. Altogether, the dishes made for a sweet-shop-style dipping session, mixing flavours and exploring combinations.

We took on the Danish meatballs, which came with a redcurrant dipping sauce. These were a little over-cooked but did nothing to dampen a great meal.

Next was the pulled pieces of roasted pork shoulder served with crackling and a crab-apple sauce. Informed by our waitress that the crab apples came from her garden, we delighted in dipping the succulent meat into the sharp purée.

We went for something sweet to finish off. A dark-chocolate brownie with blackberry sauce, honeycomb and vanilla ice-cream was a light and flavoursome way to finish, while the iced peanut butter parfait with raspberries added invention.

The bill, with drinks, came to a staggeringly low £50.60. My advice is to ignore Government warnings and over-indulge in Salt as soon as possible.

■ **Salt**
13 Palace Street, Canterbury
CT1 2DZ (telephone 01227 788595, website www.saltcanterbury.co.uk)

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interiors

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www.beadlecromeinteriors.co.uk

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Price: £28
www.redcandy.co.uk

Rug
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www.kelaty.com

A clash of colour

Try throwing together unlikely combinations of colour, texture and pattern. Mix things up by pairing a kaleidoscopic pattern in saturated primary colours with softer pastel accents, or give a blue-black base a pop of colour with splashes of bright yellow and purple. There's only one rule: more is more.

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Bed down for a new year of growing before the chill

Jeremy Shirley shares some final tips for your garden before the onset of winter

PROVERB of the month: 'Should the leaves that hang on the trees in October wither and are slow to fall, it foretells a frosty winter and much snow'.

Sorry to bring tidings of possible gloom in what is my last piece this year. Well, the wish for September came true. My article induced the rain.

More than our fair share of the warm summer sun certainly benefited floral and vegetable gardens.

Brian, our leading nursery-hand, is proud of our onions, grown here on our flinty, shallow Challock soil.

Why do we import thousands of tons from Spain each year?

You, too, can grow onions just as good as ours. The nursery is 500 feet above sea level and produces a crop like this every year.

Onions are one of the healthiest vegetables, too. They alleviate high blood pressure, stimulate the immune system, are rich in organo-sulphur compounds to reduce cholesterol and fight cancer and have anti-fungal protection afforded by quercetin. Disbelief? Check it on the internet.

A busy year for us! Any go-ahead nursery can score over the all-too-familiar without-soul garden centres.

Our last event was Saturday's chilli open day involving a paella feast, craft stalls and home-grown innovations.

Earlier in September we had a visit from the Seattle Fuchsia Society. They also took in Wisley RHS Gardens, Kew Gardens and Sissinghurst on their tour. They are lovely people and lots of photographs were taken.

Remember the picture of Becky with seedlings earlier this year? Well, here are 12 that I have selected and are to be known as The Princess Collection.

I now have gladioli seed drying and what a merry time the bees had popping in and out of the florets creating new varieties – yes, the bees are responsible for cross-pollination.

It's time for bulb-planting for next spring. The rare 1750 introduction KeizersKroon – vivid scarlet and yellow tulips – will be seen here, so do plant bulbs this autumn.

October onwards is the time for planting soft fruits, vines and fruit trees again. Didn't strawberries and apples do well?

As I pen this, I've picked some Outdoor Girl tomatoes grown for delicious sandwiches with my wife's home-made bread. I recall acres of these grown in the 1950s in Essex and at Page Bros, a nursery at which I worked in Middlesex.

Recently we had our first jar of crusty honeycomb honey from the nursery bees. I understand there are about 60,000 bees but would not wish to count them!

Let me remind you to thinly-sow tubs or any suitable container now with lettuce seed, carrots and Little Grandad spinach from the 1940s.

Start these in a polytunnel, greenhouse or conservatory – no winter attention is required and hard frost will do them no harm.

Equally, try growing Victorian climbing peas sown in December and January. Earlier this year we were pleasantly surprised with Douce Provence, a shorter growing pea.

Why not try growing different varieties of mushrooms? My first experience back in 1956 was growing mushrooms in sawdust using what was called the cropost system – it worked under the bench in a greenhouse or frost-free shed just fine.

These days you have a wide choice and many a small business has grown like this. Surplus tomatoes and fallen apples are but two subjects for home-made pickles and chutney.

A technique of which I have extensive experience and that I wish to introduce next year is harnessing the earth's magnetic field. This is a method employed for centuries past – it is known as electro-culture. I doubt if any commercial or amateur growers have heard of this, yet it was a common practice among Egyptian growers 2,000 years ago – the energy source of open pyramid frames.

In the 19th and 20th centuries it was the commercial practice when constructing a greenhouse that it should run north to south in length, the benefit being not only all-round even light levels as the sun rises in the east and finally rests with nightfall in the west. Such orientation, especially with vineyards of old, could increase the crop by more than 30 per cent.

The shape of a pyramid is stranger than fiction, but try this experiment:

Take two small plates. On each, place an identical apple, grapes or a piece of cheese.

Leave one plate sitting on the table. Over the other, place a pyramid wire or simple wooden frame.

The subjects under the pyramid won't shrivel or go mouldy – even a disposable razor with the blade orientated north to south will become re-honed sharp as new. I hold the proof – do an internet search.

So finally, all the friends Victoriana has made since my first editorial this year and since the early 1960s, I shall close with the words of the much-loved Forces sweetheart of the Second World War, Dame Vera Lynn: Until we meet again one sunny day...

■ **Jeremy Shirley developed Challock's Victoriana Nursery Gardens; visit www.victoriananursery.co.uk to learn more.**

FAMILY BUSINESS: Brian, above, is proud of his Giant Exhibition Onions; he cares for Victoriana's vegetable and floral trials. Above left: remember Becky's picture (left) from earlier this year with the transplanted fuchsia seedlings? Here are 12 specials selected from those seedlings potted in May and called The Princess Collection. Opposite page: three generations of the Shirley family.

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Survey reveals a massive stain on the UK's conscience

IT seems that we are a nation of grubby homeowners who will go to any lengths to hide spills, stains and unsavoury cleaning habits, with one in three Brits admitting they would be ashamed if friends and family found out how little cleaning they actually did, according to research.

A study of 2,000 people conducted by home-cleaning specialist Bissell reveals that 11 per cent of us only clean when they're expecting visitors, while an embarrassed two-thirds of Britain's householders confess to moving furniture to hide stains on their carpets.

Twenty-two per cent of people say visitors to their home are to blame for the mess... and they might be right.

One in three of us admits to spilling a drink on a friend's carpet and not telling them, with 18 per cent actively hiding the evidence.

Twenty-eight per cent confess to having walked mud through someone else's home and then playing ignorant.

Unsurprisingly, drink spillages are the most common cause of stains, with 50 per cent of people having tea, coffee and red-wine stains in their carpets.

But you may want to think twice before walking barefoot across the carpet of a pet-owner – 19 per cent of people have dirty patches in the carpets caused by pet urine.

In fact, seven out of 10 people are living with stained carpets, but it seems we just can't be bothered to clean up.

More than one in 10 never clean carpets – the same number say they feel they can live with carpet stains and just hope general wear and tear will help the stain to blend in.

Top five **most common carpet stains...**

A-level student's design proves to be top-drawer

KENT schoolboy Thomas Paton has created a bedside table at prestigious furniture-manufacturing company Stoneham Kitchens as part of his A-level product-design project.

The experience has inspired Thomas, from St John's Catholic Comprehensive in Gravesend, to seek a career in this field and apply for a design internship.

"Designing a bedside table with the advice of top designers has been a great experience," said Thomas, who lives in Hartley.

"I've really enjoyed my product-design A-level and being able to attend the different stages of the process at Stoneham's plant and find solutions has showed me I would really like to work in the furniture industry."

Royal warrant-holder Stoneham Kitchens is entering its 150th year of expertise as a bespoke furniture-manufacturer.

The company regularly accepts work-experience pupils at its plant in Footscray, Sidcup.

"It's important to give young budding designers the opportunity to learn more about the industry and what we do," said managing director Adrian Stoneham.

"As a family-run business we are committed to giving back to the community and allowing students to pursue their passion."

The Stoneham staff played a significant role in helping the teenager construct the final product – a natural veneered walnut and solid maple drawer set with the curved cabinet drawer front, for which Stoneham has become renowned.

Thomas, 18, said: "I'm really pleased with how the project turned out. I enjoyed the entire process and would be happy in any of the manufacturing stages, but I favoured the drawing process most."

His ambition to undertake an apprenticeship couldn't come at a better time, as the Government pledged last month to provide more support to apprentices, with business secretary Vince Cable highlighting the skills gap in engineering and manufacturing.

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A stairway to showcasing your home

By improving your staircase, the hallway can make a big first impression on visitors and buyers alike

YOUR hallway is the window into your home, showcasing your style and setting the tone for the rest of the house.

Although the kitchen is widely regarded as the heart of the home, have you considered your hallway as the true hub, offering a living, breathing canvas that showcases your style, home ambience and family life?

When a neighbour brings round some misplaced post or a parent from school drops off your child after a play date, the hallway is probably the first thing they see when you open the door.

First impressions count, and hall appeal is most definitely the new kerb appeal, as a stylish hallway can make a real statement. However, more often than not, this part of the home is neglected, used as a dumping ground by the kids and is always at the bottom of the priority list when it comes to redecorating.

It really doesn't take much to refresh your hallway.

Apart from the obvious lick of paint and drill-sergeant discipline needed to ensure the children use the neat new storage system, there is one feature that can make a dramatic difference to the hallway's look and feel... the staircase.

According to Richard Burbidge, the stair parts expert, upgrading your staircase is much simpler and more cost-effective than you'd think.

The company offers a range of simple-to-install stair parts to suit any style or budget.

To find out how you can transform your hall with new stair parts, visit www.stairproject.co.uk. Here you'll find an array of inspirational images, as well as Richard Burbidge's handy planning tool, which can help with the designing of your new stairs.

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info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk or www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Guests include: Martyn Wyndham-Read & No Mans Band (Thur): Claque, Derek Gifford, Dick Miles, Gavin & Julie Atkin, Graeme Knights, Green Diesel, Greg Harper, Chris Davis & Gary Holder, Heather Knights, Jim Bainbridge, Martin Young, Na Mara, Paul & Liz Davenport, Pete Castle, Pete Coe, Pete Morton, Pierre Vincent, SkynFlynt, Sussex Pistols, Swinging the Lead.
Marquee and Showcase guests: Alice Rose, Border Crossing, Captain Patch, Damian Clarke, Foxglove Trio, Foxtrot Darlings, Henry Sparks, Highworth School Folk Band, Old Country Crows, Tom Kellett **and hard working regular guests:** Bod Kenward, Chris Roche, Hard Pressed, Malcolm Ward, Marsh Warblers, Peter Collins, Roger Resch, Spare Parts, Sue Watson, Travelling Folk, Vic & Tina Smith: *Not all guest are there for the whole weekend.*

CONTACT INFORMATION
Festival Director: Alan Castle **e:** info@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk **t:** 01233 626805
Dance Co-Ordinator: dance@tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk **Crafts and stalls**: Paul Cumberland **e:** paul@birdsbirdsbirds.co.uk **t:** 01795 532370
Chief Steward: Katy & Bob Drage **e:** kathybobdrage@btinternet.com **t:** 01843 835694

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Farage dreams a UK nightmare

OF COURSE Nigel Farage hopes his party will win the European parliamentary elections next May (KoS, last week).

But voters should look carefully before they commit their precious votes to the Pied Piper of Ukip.

The reality is that leaving the EU would be an unmitigated disaster for UK trade and our economy, and could also lead to the loss of more than three million British jobs as companies and City firms moved abroad.

The same weekend as your splendid new-style paper was published, we had yet more shameful sexist insults from Godrey Bloom MEP at the Ukip conference, who is now even too politically incorrect for his former boss Mr Farage.

With the Tories also flirting with Farage over a referendum, the only avowed pro-EU party are now the Lib Dems, which is why we are campaigning on creating new jobs, not throwing them away on perilous promises of UK independence.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

Extinguish this burning issue

I AGREE with everything said in your article on Chinese lanterns (KoS, last week).

I am against the use of Chinese lanterns for safety reasons and to protect our open spaces, woodland areas, farm animals and wildlife in general.

I am sure the majority of the general public would be horrified to realise how lethal the pretty lanterns can be, and it is only because of their lack of knowledge that they still purchase and use them.

Here's hoping the message gets through to people soon – before a major incident occurs.

G. Roberts, by email

Rural living not to be sniffed at

MANY years ago, and I am just old enough to remember the days before main drainage, every house had a cesspool which was emptied by the local council with tankers.

Where do these moaners think that was emptied? Yes, it was spread on farmers' fields.

If these people think manure smells, they should have smelt that.

I assume these people who moan are ex-townies and city dwellers who have escaped to the country.

I say if they don't like it, move back to the towns and cities and don't try to change a way of rural life that's been going on for centuries.

Farming is a way of life in Kent.

If people want to move to the country they will have to put up with the smells and the way of life.

Ian Lamb, by email

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Give scapegoat Paris second chance, Ann

FOR what it's worth, I have to say it was a huge – massive – mistake to make Paris Brown resign following the media frenzy surrounding her youth commissioner appointment.

What better example could there be of someone making silly mistakes in their youth and then wanting to turn their life around for the better?

Hundreds of youngsters could relate to that and Paris would have been an ideal ambassador for them.

Surely that's the whole point, rather than having a squeaky clean, goody two-shoes who doesn't know what it's like to make mistakes and then regret them?

I know Paris posted stupid things on Facebook and Twitter and no-one could condone what she said, but I'm on both sites myself and have seen far worse from so-called 'adults'.

I'll never forget that young girl's emotional public resignation, which should never have happened.

I think Ann Barnes should have been strong, stood up to the media and stood by her original decision.

It looks as though she scuttled away at the first sign of trouble and left the young girl to fend for herself. That was far more damaging to Ann's reputation than supporting her new employee could ever have been.

But it's not too late, Ann. Don't re-advertise the post, don't hold more interviews; have the courage of your convictions and stand by your word. Reappoint Paris and let her do her job.

She'll be fantastic, you'll see.

Linda Weeks, Maidstone

Thumbs up for revamped KoS

HAVING been a great fan of the KoS from day one, I've had a keen interest in its progress.

So I did wonder, when I saw the revamp, whether it would be like other newspaper revamps that leave you feeling you wish they'd left it alone.

I should have known better; it's great and I wish you great success.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Walrus enjoyed his seaside stay

PLEASE extend my thanks to your readers – the good people of Margate, Thanet and beyond – for their generous, gregarious and gargantuan welcome during my summer sojourn at Turner Contemporary.

So many came to visit me that I felt quite the star.

Now that I am once again safely perched atop my icy plinth here at the Horniman in Forest Hill, I shall remember fondly my seaside trip.

My new-found friends may also like to know the sea air has done me good. Thank you, Margate.

Yours, rejuvenated
Horniman Walrus, Esq,
atop the iceberg, London

Trip enhanced by your kindness

I WISH to thank four people who live in Ashford and were with me in the queue for the Gherkin in London last Saturday.

They were so kind to arrange for me to jump the queue after four hours together.

I thoroughly enjoyed their company, The long wait went much quicker than it might have done.

I do hope they will read this as there was not the opportunity at the time to thank them properly.

Edna Sutton, by email

Reconnecting our WWII heroes

I LIVE on part of a former World War II/early Cold War radar base in Norfolk – RAF West Beckham.

I would like to talk to any former personnel who served there, or their family members, who may now be residing in Kent.

So far I have tracked down 14 former World War II WAAFs who served here and around 35, 1950s airmen, and a couple of officers.

I have managed to put WAAFs back in touch with colleagues they lost contact with in 1945, and reunite airmen with those they have not since 1955.

Anyone who may be able to assist should contact me on 01263 824069 or by email at miked3038@hotmail.com.

Mike Digby, West Beckham

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent

Sculpture at Kings Hill, West Malling

by **Alan Blackburn** from Canterbury

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(T&C's below)

MARY bubbly young 72, seeking tall, 65 plus male with GSOH for company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407823**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019**

AMANDA 44 blonde, blue eyed, very leggy, fun to be with, honest and caring seeking kind, considerate honest gent 74-79 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405315**

SUE 65, slim, animal lover, 5ft, blonde, likes socialising, meals out, theatre, countryside, happy go lucky, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405767**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 407321**

LISA blonde, blue eyes, looking for male, 42-54 for fun and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404877**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SLIM N/S female, 54, working, reliable, easy going, likes nature, animals, seeks nice male companion, 50-64 for country/seaside walks and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405745**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, Military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405707**

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751**

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779**

JACQUELINE 79 widow, easy going, good listener, not slim or neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks, lonely would like gentleman's company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405533**

ATTRACTIVE female, 53, N/S, 5ft 8ins, looking for similar male, 50-55 who loves countryside, animals and is easygoing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405421**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

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MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

GEORGINA widow, WLTM gent, 60-80 with GSOH for days out, friendship, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

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(T&C's below)

SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883**

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, lets go! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855**

STEVE 6ft 4ins, OHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, homely, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355**

RETIRED male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317**

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277**

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147**

TALL slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065**

CANTERBURY white mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build black/white/Asian/oriental female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

TALL friendly, light hearted, single, 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR with mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405557**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

CANTERBURY sign language interpreter 58, 5ft 10ins, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, seeks slim-medium build female, 21-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

BLACK male, looking for 1-2-1 relationship with laid back, understanding female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221**

MEDWAY male, 60's, solvent, seeks attractive lady, 55-65, GSOH to wine, dine and share the good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405429**

DISCREET kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitstable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439**

RICHARD divorced, 61, N/S, likes classic cars, looking to meet nice lady for meals out, days out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406349**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, brown hair, fun loving, happy go lucky, honest, seeks special lady for fun and to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406333**

MIKE 39, 6ft 7ins, large build, blue eyes, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406321**

DEREK Croydon area, 52, self employed, seeks female for 1-2-1 relationship, likes meals out, places of interest, holidays. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406559**

OUTGOING professional, fun loving, entertaining male, seeking warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405633**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519**

ACTIVE 60's semi-retired man, OHAC, GSOH, enjoys theatre, dancing, singing, amateur dramatics, coast, gardening etc., WLTM n/s female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404671**

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jar half full. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857**

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451**

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easy-going, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589**

VIC mid 60's medium build male, active, N/S, likes countryside, DIY, seeks compatible female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405085**

CHRIS from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, WLTM N/S female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

40 something Gemini 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, varied outdoor interests, seeks similar outgoing female, 30-45 for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404535**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, independent, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Children/animals welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404537**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

KEVIN 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087**

FUN fit, 60yr old male, seeks older, well built female for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404971**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

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RON 60, overweight, passive, seeking active guy for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407437**

TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735**

PETER looking for male, 30-60 for casual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male of similar age for occasional meetings and mutual interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405863**

BI guy, CD, 57, OHAC, seeking similar for mutual fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404907**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 40, Medway, seeks sports buddies into table tennis, golf, snooker and pool. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405417**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

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KEEPING CONNECTED: At present the Discovery Park, pictured below, benefits from a high-speed rail link

Mounting pressure to secure high-speed deal

A key selling point in trying to breathe fresh economic life into Sandwich after Pfizer is the fast link to London...but can it survive? **Joe Bill** reports

CAMPAIGNERS are stepping up the pressure on central and local government to ensure the high-speed rail link to Deal and Sandwich does not come off the rails.

Currently subsidised heavily by Kent County Council, the service is seen as essential to aiding the economic recovery of the area following drug giant Pfizer's decision to pull out in 2011.

As a consequence, one of the key selling mechanisms of the Discovery Park – the former Pfizer complex – is the ability to access the capital courtesy of the fast rail link.

In addition, the fast service has become popular with commuters who have begun to rely on it.

However, the existing service, operated by Southeastern, is due to expire in March 2014, prompting fears of any withdrawl of the service delivering a huge dent to hopes of continued recovery.

The existing KCC subsidised service had been scheduled to run until Southeastern's franchise deal came up for renewal, with the hope it would be permanently included as part of negotiations for an extended deal.

However, due to a major overhaul of how the franchises are being awarded, Southeastern was granted an extension until 2018, leaving the Sandwich and Deal service facing an uncertain future.

Tom Rowland is from the Trains4Deal (T4D) campaign group.

He explained: "To attract more world-class science start-ups, Discovery Park needs a similar high speed service down from London, timed so a visitor can spend a working day in Sandwich. This will also benefit other local businesses and tourism, for which the service needs to run at weekends."

At the latest Kent Rail Summit, staged earlier this year, Mr Rowland spoke to the Department For Transport, KCC representatives and the managing director of Southeastern, Charles Horton, about the implications of the service being withdrawn.

Mr Horton said: "We will need to talk to the DfT about the services going forward. We're very active, and we recognise the benefits delivered by the Deal and Sandwich service.

"We'd like to talk to the DfT

Continued on page 63 »

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Fresh call to ensure youngsters are properly prepared

A GOVERNMENT-licensed skills organisation is urging education providers and employers to develop the advanced skills youngsters need to ensure they stand a chance in a fiercely competitive jobs market.

The Financial and Legal Skills Partnership says the focus in the county must be to serving students well to ensure they find employment and not join the dole queue.

Liz Field, CEO of the partnership, echoed skills minister Matthew Hancock's comments, following release of the Careers Guidance Action Plan, on the need for schools and colleges to put young people into the world of work.

She explained: "As the economic momentum starts to build, we need to create sustainable, full-time work for our young people; this new generation on the threshold of careers. And these need to be real jobs, in which they can take pride and satisfaction, and feel secure.

"Schools and colleges can play a very important role in putting young people from Kent in touch with the world of work to inspire them about their futures, creating new worlds of opportunity and expanding their horizons to help them make fully informed decisions.

TOP OF THE CLASS: It is essential students emerge with advanced skills

"All business sectors benefit from working with enthusiastic people, who are bursting with bright, innovative ideas. We must ensure they can access the guidance, information and practical tools needed to develop their confidence and potential. This can range from work experience and apprenticeships to virtual learning and graduate colleges.

"As we encourage and support young people from Kent in building their skills for jobs – not just in our sector, but also across the wider economy – we can help them realise their potential for creating a successful, fulfilling career."

Experts get tips in Thanet schools

EDUCATION specialists from Kurdistan have visited Margate as part of a fact-finding visit to the UK.

Psychology professors Rushdi Jaf and Professor Kareem Karachatani from the university in Sulaimani city were investigating a range of topics including special educational needs, early learning and teacher training.

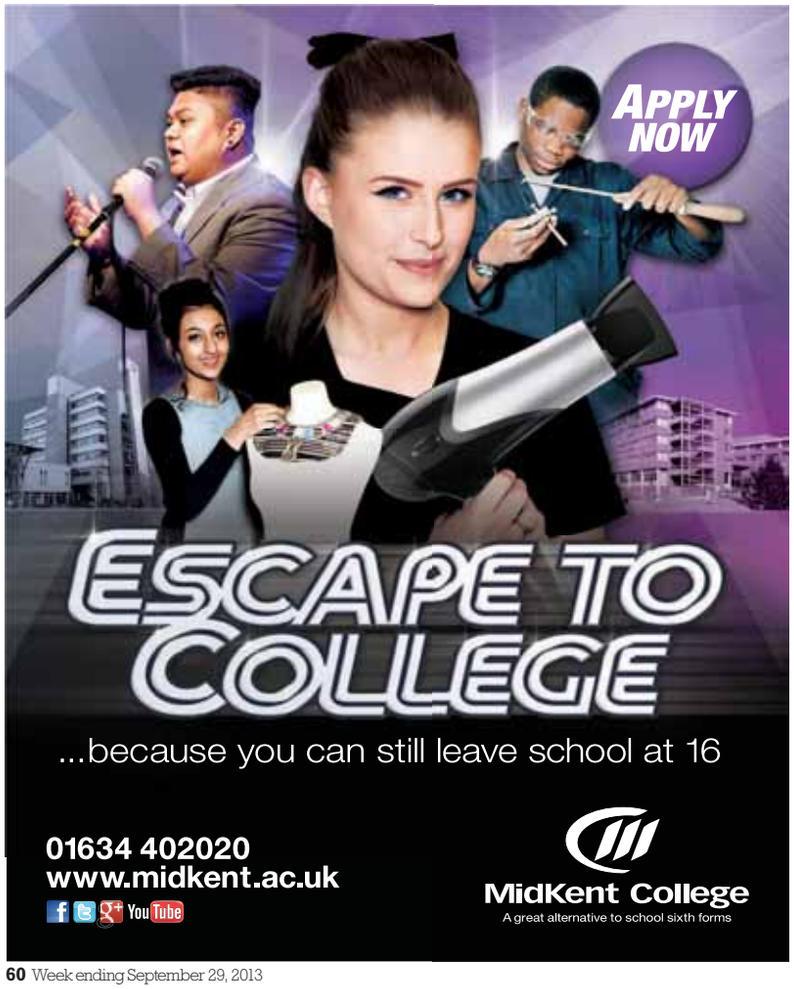
They visited Hartsdown Academy, Laleham Gap School, St Anthony's School and East Kent College.

Job fair proves a big success again

MORE than 2,000 jobseekers attended the Medway Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair at the Pentagon Centre in Chatham on Thursday.

Organised by Medway Council and Job Centre Plus, employers from across the county were represented, in addition to support agencies advising on how to get back into work or find a new career.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good news story, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **01303 817100**.



Kent vineyard flying high as A380's drink of choice

THE sky's the limit for a popular Kentish vineyard whose wine has just bagged a spot in the first class section of British Airway's new super plane – the giant A380.

As the first flight departed from Heathrow for Los Angeles this week, passengers toasted the historic moment with a glass of Hush Heath's Balfour Brut Rosé.

The luxury sparkling wine, produced near Cranbrook, was chosen in a poll by British Airways passengers who requested the Kent fizz be served on board the new £264million planes.

The A380, which can hold 469 passengers across two decks, has already been seen in the county's skies on numerous occasions after British Airways used Manston Airport in Thanet as the A380's testing ground and training centre for its pilots, flight crew and cabin staff. It was also launched by model Georgia May Jagger, daughter of Dartford's Rolling Stones legend, Mick Jagger.

The wine's producer Richard Balfour-Lynn said: "I'm absolutely thrilled by British Airways decision to stock Balfour Brut Rosé on the A380. It's particularly exciting this has been brought about by first class customers' request and a real honour to be representing the UK."

The Kent vineyard has previously flown the flag for the south east as the only English sparkling to be served at the London 2012 Olympics. The A380s' second route - to Hong Kong - launches on October 22, Hush Heath's Balfour Brut Rosé will be on board once more.

Agricultural sector is finally growing some poisitivity in business

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WHETHER or not it is the proverbial green shoots remains to be seen, but there is a growing mood of confidence and optimism among rural businesses, according to the latest figures.

The Country Land & Business Association (CLA)/Smiths Gore Rural Economy Index for the second quarter, seemed to buck fears expressed in the previous quarter's report which suggested there was a threat of further recession on the sector.

And while the latest figures do not suggest the situation has been fully resolved, there are "early signs of recovery".

While farming businesses are still contending with the effects of the difficult weather conditions in 2012, they are a little more optimistic than they were in quarter one.

Non-farming rural businesses are more positive than their agricultural counterparts; especially about profitability over the next 12 months compared with farming businesses.

Michael Wooldridge, partner, at Smiths Gore's Kent office at West Malling, explained: "Confidence is critical for all businesses and is often an early indicator of profitability.

"Confidence influences investment and production intentions. Our analysis of projected business performance shows however that there is a marked difference in the expectations of agricultural and non-agricultural businesses; the greater optimism being expressed by non-farming businesses translates into expectations for higher sales."

Confidence also translates into the prospects for investment and employment and there is again a marked difference between the agricultural and non-agricultural sector.

LOOKING UP: Rural businesses have not been so positive about green shoots, until now

The investment expectations of non-agricultural businesses are now at their highest for over a year and while they expect to employ more people, the sentiment is expressed with a degree of caution.

Mr Wooldridge adds: "There is evidence, albeit weak, that sentiment in the rural economy is on the cusp of change. There was tangible concern last quarter that there was a silent crisis taking place in the rural economy. With the Government claiming that UK high street sales have been rising and UK factories witnessing the biggest boom in 20 years, there was a real concern the rural economy was being forgotten.

"While there is a long way to go before agricultural and non-agricultural businesses can claim that the economic revival has leaked out into the country, we can have some cautious optimism."

Campaigners vow to see high-speed train continue

« Continued from page 59

about how the services go forward in the direct award period [from 2014 to 2018], and whether they become integrated in the franchise specification or not.

"It's for the Government to decide what they buy."

With Kent County Council accutely aware of using taxpayers' money to fund the service, and in an era when its budgets are being continually hacked away, any long term KCC-funded solution seems unlikely.

Director of planning and environment at KCC, Paul Crick, supports T4D's efforts.

He said: "We've funded this service from September 2011 to March 2014, for two and a half years – and the indicators are that it's a phenomenal success.

"As the DfT says, you've got a 'very vociferous county council on your side here'.

"We have regular meetings with the DfT, Southeastern and Network Rail.

"We'll continue to bat for the campaign groups because it has been such a successful service, and we fully anticipate it being provided. We'll do what we can to get it provided within the new franchise."

Dover and Deal's Labour parliamentary candidate for the 2015 General Election, Clair Hawkins, hopes there will be a swift resolve.

She said: "It is totally unacceptable for Deal's commuters to lose their high-speed rail service as a consequence of the Government's rail franchising fiasco.

"Ministers must require Southeastern to continue to run these services as part of the deal for extending their franchise until 2018.

"The Government has created this problem through their incompetent managing of the rail franchising process and those that rely on HS1 services should not end up paying the price."

Should it stay? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

One year on, and park is 50 not out

Following its launch in August 2012, the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone is marking the milestone by clinching 50 tenants to the park and employing more than 1,300 staff.

Discovery Park Ltd purchased the site 12 months ago when it was home to just five business and 900 staff.

It says it is on track to achieve its aim of generating 3,000 new jobs by 2017 – emulating the scale of employment at the site prior to Pfizer's departure.

A wide variety of sectors are represented on the site, including life sciences, technology, business and manufacturing. Tenants include Augean, Mylan, LGC, Peakdale Chemistry Services, Reeves, Cleantec Innovation and Digital Detective. And, of course, Pfizer itself retains a presence.

Communities secretary Eric Pickles said: "A year ago we gave Sandwich the impetus to recover from Pfizer's departure. Since then Discovery Park has created 1,300 jobs and attracted 50 new companies, turning it into one of the leading science and technology centres in Europe."

Anna Stone, leasing manager, Discovery Park, said: "This has been an exciting year for the whole team as we develop the park's reputation as a leading science, technology and business hub, and we are delighted to welcome our 50th tenant on board.

"The park is starting to buzz with new businesses and opportunities, which is great for the tenants and for the wider area, who will benefit from the investment and opportunities. Our vision is simple, to create a world class science, technology and business location, offering excellent facilities."

Check tax rules before inheriting

Business advisors have called for the Government to relax tax rules which could jeopardise the transfer of farms from one generation to the next.

Plans laid out in the Finance Bill would alter the basis of calculating the amount of inheritance tax payable on an individual's death in cases where property relief has been gained on their assets.

The proposed legislation would come into force in cases where an estate includes both assets that qualify for Business Property Relief (BPR) or Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and a borrowing used to fund their acquisition.

Alison Turner, tax manager at DSH Chartered Accountants in Maidstone, which specialises in the agricultural sector, said while the plans would put an end to any exploitation or abuse of current provisions to lower tax obligations, they would also affect countless genuine beneficiaries.

She explained: "Although it is right that unfair tax advantages are removed, any legislation should be targeted to only those who abuse the system.

"Otherwise, the Government is simply taking the position that all commercial-based borrowing used to purchase assets that qualify for BPR or APR is exploitative, which is not the commercial reality.

"People who have relied on the availability of these reliefs to ensure their businesses and farms can continue to run through generations should consider the ramifications of the new legislation."

Congratulations to our lucky winner

FOUR Seasons Park Homes in Wrotham is the winner of an advertising wrap around a future edition of KoS.

As part of a promotion, we offered all advertisers working with us on a particular week the chance to win the prime position. Publisher of this newspaper, Simon Irwin, selected the firm at random from the hat.

TOO SMALL? Bungalows take up a large amount of land for a small amount of home

Bungalows are not the right housing solution

Managing director of DBS Homes **Dennis Minns** says developers need to utilise land efficiently to ensure more people are given the chance to have a home of their own

THE term bungalow is a north Indian word meaning 'Bengali style house', which traditionally has four essential features.

They are detached, they are for single-family occupancy, they have a veranda and they are – obviously – single-storey.

This is a rather pleasant list of attributes to facilitate a comfortable life, and no doubt suitable for older people needing to live on one level. Perhaps that is why Secretary of State Eric Pickles says he would like to see us build more bungalows.

Bungalows, however, cost more to build than other forms of housing due to the expensive elements: the floor and roof are greater in proportion to the dwelling size. They are built to lower densities of development, especially where they are detached.

Single-family occupation can in practice mean a single person, and while a veranda may be used in the southern states of America or Bangladesh... in Britain less so?

We are struggling with a chronic housing shortage that sees too few new homes built and a large number of people without any kind of home.

Bungalows are the very last form of development that we should be encouraging to be built. We need greater densities of housing. Detached and low-rise dwellings are wholly inappropriate.

Low-density and low-rise works in Australia and the States, but in Britain we have rejected the suburban sprawl associated with this form of development.

What we need is anything but bungalows. We need a planning presumption that any replacement dwelling should be two-storey or more to enable more efficient land use. Many bungalows in Britain were built at a time when building materials were in short supply. Many are substandard and could be replaced. They are precisely the dwellings at low existing use values that often occupy large plots ripe for redevelopment at higher densities offering more people new homes.

A call for more bungalows is a call to preserve this wasteful and unwelcome land use.

There is no reason that we could not build three-storey houses divided into garden flat and duplex upper floors with balcony or terrace. This would provide vital groundfloor accommodation but make use of the upper floors. Indeed there is no reason that those wanting a lateral home should not live in a flat with a lift and communal garden.

There can surely be no justification in building expensive land-hungry bungalows for single occupation while many families wait for a home. This would be a misuse of scarce resources and an insult to those willing to accept anything to call home.

It is time we became realistic about the kind of homes we are prepared to provide to the heavily-subsidised housing sector.

While our philosophy must be to provide a wide range to allow everybody to enjoy a home, we must balance this with a realistic assessment of the resources available.

DBS

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5 days all inclusive

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Quote XA11-KOS

26 November, 2013

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Aachen Christmas Markets

Madeira Winter Sun

Holiday by Air from London Gatwick

8 days semi-all-inclusive

£699pp

Quote MA-KOS

MA11 - 8 November, 2013

MA1 - 24 January, 2014

MA1-1 - 31 January, 2014

MA2 - 7 February, 2014

MA3 - 7 March, 2014

Leave the grey UK winter behind and come with us to enjoy some winter sun on the island of Madeira which is lapped by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, making it an enchanting year-round holiday destination. In Madeira you'll find pleasant soothing colours with shades of green set against an azure sea – the hallmark of the subtropics.

The winter average temperature is around 17°C and the bay of Funchal - our base for this holiday - is protected by the island's highest peaks and enjoys the best of sunshine.

We stay at the 4-star Hotel Raga, which is idyllically situated on a hillside in the heart of Funchal's renowned Lido area commanding spectacular views from its high vantage point.

Funchal

Return flights are from Gatwick with 1 checked in bag and 1 carry-on bag included.

INCLUDED: Return flights to Funchal with 1 checked in piece of luggage up to 20 kgs and 1 piece of hand baggage (50 x 40 x 20cm including wheels) • Return airport to hotel transfers • 7 nights sharing a superior room • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners from the buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch and dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Live entertainment 3 times per week (subject to change) • Use of the hotel gym and outdoor heated pool • Porterage in and out

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3 nights Half Board+

~~£175pp~~ - Sale Price £159

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22 November, 2013

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INCLUDED: £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available

Save £32 Per Couple

£10pp Deposit

£1.50 Drinks 6pm to Midnight every night

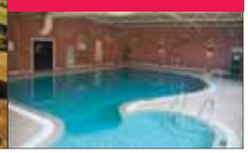
Grease Tribute Show & Movie

Frankie Valli Tribute

Bee Gees Tribute

PLUS Christmas Celebration Stage Show And More

Mill Rythe



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Warner Bembridge Hotel Isle of Wight

3 nights semi-all-inclusive

~~£219pp~~ Sale From £209pp

Quote WS1-KOS

10 January, 2014

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Save £20 Per Couple

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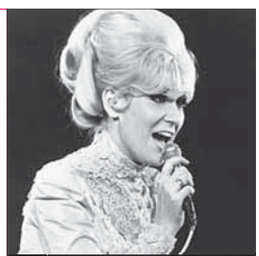
Free Drinks 6pm to Midnight every night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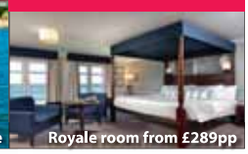
Warner Bembridge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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPORTY YET NICE: Seat's Leon ST is a stunning yet practical estate making it one of the most attractive in the sector

Seat lays on even more style

Seat Leon

Price:	from £15,370
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Golf

AFTER a phase as Volkswagen Audi Group's poor relation, Seat is bang on track with its third-generation Leon family hatch (from £15,370).

Reiterating the coupé styling of before, VAG's Spanish arm has gone one better by offering an even more rakish three-door SC or sports coupé version and, coming soon, surely the most elegant and sporty small estate car in the form of the ST version.

Order books are open now for this stunning yet practical car, due on UK roads by January, and its rakish back end looks like it was always in the Leon design team's mind rather than the afterthought that estates so often appear to be.

Priced from just £16,675 for the lively 105PS (103bhp) turbocharged petrol 1.2-litre entry model, the ST has just gained its maximum five-star Euro NCAP safety rating, too.

Also arriving soon is the most miserly Leon yet; Seat has lately offset its sporty reputation by producing models with green Ecomotive sub-branding.

Prices have yet to be confirmed, but the new Leon Ecomotive will emit just 87g/km of CO_2 – well below the 100g/km threshold that incurs road tax – and returns 85.6mpg on the official combined cycle to give a theoretical range of some 940 miles.

Like every Leon, the Ecomotive features Start/Stop and Brake Energy Recovery, but it also has a specially adapted six-speed manual gearbox, eco tyres and tweaked aerodynamics.

It will be offered in five-door, SC and ST versions and features a new 110PS (108bhp) 1.6-litre TDI diesel.

Seat's previous Leon (2005-2012) looked terrific, only missing the bull's eye due to a lack-lustre interior but selling strongly until the end.

Though the new car is a tad more conservatively styled, though perversely even more eye-catching, the sales battle may be won by the interior and on-road performance.

The spacious cabin is far superior in quality this time, with a logical and well-made layout and excellent infotainment touchscreen.

And while the old car's competition success gave it a big profile with sporting drivers and helped push the sporty FR (Formula Racing) and Cupra (Cup Racing), the use of VW's new lightweight MQB platform means all new Leons gain the handling skills of before and more while adding ride comfort.

The cabin can be a little noisy with some powertrains, something VW engineered out of the Golf to deliver a big-car feel, but remember that a Leon will cost far less and look more dramatic – a deal that keen drivers will find hard to resist.

Of models tested so far, the current performance flagship, the turbocharged 140PS (138bhp) 1.4 TSI FR (£19,385), is the star, but look out for the next Cupra hot-hatch.

The nicest surprise is the 105PS (103bhp) 1.2 TSI entry model; it's light and nimble, achieving 62mph in 10 seconds, and costs just £30 a year in road tax after year one while returning an official combined 57.6mpg.

Least exciting is the 105PS 1.6TDI diesel (from £17,370). Company-car-drivers love its tax efficiencies; with 99g/km of CO_2 emissions, it is road-tax-exempt and has a combined mpg of 74.3.

At almost £2,000 more than petrol equivalents, though, private buyers should avoid it as they must do many miles for fuel savings to counter the high purchase price.

It's also the only powertrain with a five-speed gearbox, yet it feels like it could use a sixth.

Other view...

the Petrolhead
Leon Cupra and FR models have been under-rated hot-hatch stars but recognised by those in the know as quick as well as good-looking.

the Woman Driver
Wow! A sexy-looking car and I could be tempted by the estate – I'm not usually – for its mix of practicality and some serious style.

the Eco-warrior
Ecomotive versions just go to prove that a car can look good and still be more eco-friendly. How far away is a 100mpg Leon now?

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

Offers are available for registrations between 02.07.13 and 01.10.13 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Official Government Test Environmental Data. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. ^£1,605 worth of FREE upgrades available on Zafira Capital 1.6 only. Terms and conditions apply. UK supplied vehicles only.

Model shown is RAV4 Invincible 2.2 D4-D 150 5dr AWD £28,200. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. *4.9% APR Representative and £1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance is available on retail sales of new RAV4 when ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 31 December 2013 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-35% deposit. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 12p per mile. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Toyota Dealers are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

All New RAV4 Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 30.7 (9.2) - 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) - 64.2 (4.4), Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 Emissions 176 g/km - 127 g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

RAV now toes the line

Toyota's RAV4 once turned the 4x4 market upside down but has become the level-headed option in its sector – reliable and dependable but hardly ground-breaking – says **Steve Loader**

TOYOTA created a new market sector by launching the RAV4 – the original 'soft-roader' – in 1994.

The name stood for Recreational Active Vehicle with four-wheel-drive, but the 'R' could equally have stood for 'revolutionary', such was the upset caused by the newcomer.

It took time for other car-manufacturers to catch up with their own compact SUV (sports utility vehicle) rivals.

Over time, though, the RAV4 has had to compete with tough opposition such as the Ford Kuga, VW Tiguan, Honda CR-V, Nissan X-Trail, Mazda CX-5 and, particularly, keenly-priced opposition from Korea's Hyundai ix35 and Kia Sportage.

The market has also splintered with crossovers like UK sales top 10 regular the Nissan Qashqai eating into the RAV4's market sector and its status – the one-time revolutionary is now simply part of the rank and file.

Fortunately for Toyota, the car still has loyal fans and the newly-launched fourth-generation car (from £22,595) is both sleeker and more practical than ever, with more boot space, fully flat load floor with seats folded and generous under-floor stowage.

Pricing is also more competitive; I think Toyota priced the previous RAV4 range a little too upmarket, but there appears to have been a reality check to go with some design advances on the new version.

It has gained a lifting tailgate, which people prefer for easy loading and as a rain shelter, particularly when 'grandstanding' at rural events.

The rear now seats three in comfort, too, with generous leg- and headroom and a virtually flat floor, allowing all rear passengers to scoot across easily and alight either side.

The latest car also appears even more rock-solid, to go with its legendary reliability.

But solid sounds like stolid and there is a marked lack of pizzazz about the new cabin.

The dashboard, for instance, is far tidier and less fussy than before and the big infotainment touchscreen works well, but it is dull to look at and some way off the pace set by other mainstream brands.

That said, there is plenty of stowage space, and the commanding driving position that made the original car so popular is still a highlight, while the handling remains sure-footed.

When the first RAV4 arrived, it was dubbed the 'GTi off-roader'; with hindsight, this appears a little fanciful, but the compact stance made the car far nimbler than standard 4x4s on the market.

However, the rash of RAV4 wannabes means the current car doesn't stand out like its predecessor did 20 years ago, though body-roll is controlled well in the corners and ride quality is forgiving enough to make the latest RAV a good all-rounder. If you want a modern GTi off-roader, though, look elsewhere.

Powertrain options are diesel except for a 2.0-litre petrol with a CVT (continuously variable transmission) box, but I can't imagine Toyota will sell many even if it is the cheapest 4x4 version in the range; you'll pay just £900 more to get the equivalent diesel 4x4 model and benefit from an extra 10mpg on average. Judging by our test car with the same engine, though, refinement is not as good as you'd expect.

If economy is key, check the cheaper front-wheel-drive-only variants.

Toyota was a pioneer in offering this on early RAV4s, but the market wasn't ready then; now it is as people recognise that economy and lower running costs and emissions are as important as SUV-style – the latest RAV4 should please on both counts and it comes with Toyota's five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

SPACE INVADER: Toyota's latest RAV4 offers more boot space and storage

Toyota RAV4 Icon 2.0D 4x2

Price:	£24,295
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax?	£105 (£0 year one)
Best rival:	Mazda CX-5

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FirstGEAR
Motoring news

Rugged looks good

VAUXHALL has challenged the VW Group's rugged 4x4 estate team by launching a cut-price equivalent.

Available to order now from £25,349, the Insignia Country Tourer undercuts the cheapest VW Passat Alltrack by £3,636, Audi A4 Allroad by £6,461 and Audi A6 Allroad by a whopping £18,456.

Based on the existing Insignia Sports Tourer estate, the new Vauxhall gains all-wheel-drive, higher ground clearance and tougher styling.

£99/month shock

RENAULT'S Romanian budget brand Dacia has launched another "shockingly affordable" deal.

It is for the impressive Duster SUV at £99 a month over four years – the short of price you would expect to pay for a city car half the Duster's size.

The catch? The deal is for the basic Duster Access; most buyers tempted by the £99 headline will soon see they need to stump up £20 a month extra for the better-equipped Ambience.

Lexus GS tax star

TOYOTA luxury arm Lexus has gone all hybrid with its mid-size BMW 5 Series equivalent GS line-up (from £31,495).

The petrol GS 250 has been replaced by a new 2.5-litre GS 300h offering, says Lexus, the best benefit-in-kind rates for company drivers in its sector, potentially saving customers more than £2,000-plus on their annual tax bill, incurring just £20-a-year road tax and offering an official combined cycle of 60.1mpg.

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GMFV – Optional Final Payment (includes £295 fee)	£12,308	£13,118
Amount of Credit	£20,626	£22,665
Total Amount Payable by Customer	£32,467	£35,017
Duration (Months)	37	37
Rate of Interest (Fixed)	4.34%	4.38%
Representative APR	4.9%	4.9%

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Official Fuel economy figures for the Jaguar XF range in MPG (l/100km): Urban 16.7–46.3 (16.9–6.1); Extra Urban 32.8–62.8 (8.6–4.5); Combined 24.4–55.4 (11.6–5.1). CO_2 Emissions 270–135 g/km.
The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. *Representative 4.9% APR Jaguar Privilege available on new XF and XF Sportbrake models (excluding 2.2 SE & 2.2 SE Business) registered between 1st July and 30th September 2013 at participating dealers only. Promotions are not available for used cars. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Jaguar Cars Finance, PO BOX 4465, Slough, Berkshire, SL1 0RW. With Jaguar Privilege you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 12p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Jaguar Cars Finance. **This promotion applies to eligible Jaguar XF Saloon and Sportbrake cars registered between 1st July and 30th September 2013 on Jaguar Cars Finance at participating Jaguar dealers. Services must take place at participating Jaguar Authorised Repairers. The "free servicing certificate" should be presented to the dealership at time of booking the vehicle in for a service in order to qualify. The promotion is only available at the point of registration of the vehicle in the customer's name. Free servicing covers scheduled servicing and associated parts (oils, hydraulic fluids, seals, filters, elements and antifreeze) and labour for three years' from the date of invoice up to a maximum of three services (3 years or 48,000 miles diesel / 45,000 miles petrol, whichever is sooner). Scheduled servicing intervals are detailed in the vehicle handbook. Excludes wear and tear items
such as shock absorbers, exhaust systems, tyres, windscreens, windows, engines, transmissions, electronics, cost of fitting or repairing accessories and any form of accident damage and non-routine servicing work, parts or labour. The service package is not a warranty package. The free service promotion is only valid for the vehicle purchased. If the customer cancels the finance agreement prior to the first service being due, Jaguar Land Rover reserves the right to cancel the Service Plan.

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Models shown: ix20 Active 1.6 auto in Ice Blue metallic paint with nil advance payment. ix35 Style 1.6 GDi in Sleek Silver metallic paint with £399 advance payment. To qualify for the Motability offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Offers available until 30th September 2013, inclusive and are subject to acceptance of Motability application. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note 60,000 miles over 3 years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix20 Active 1.6 Auto: Urban 34.0 (8.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 43.6 (6.5), CO_2 Emissions 154 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km.

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Working time is 07.30 - 17.00, Monday to Friday, but longer working hours will be necessary during peak times.

To apply for the position please download our employment application form at **www.palmstead.co.uk/application** and post to Palmstead Nurseries Ltd, Harville Road, Wye, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5EU or email **peter@palmstead.co.uk**. For an informal initial talk please contact Peter Curtis on **(01233) 811305**. The closing date for applications is 30 September 2013, interviewing begins 4 October 2013, with a hopeful start date of mid October 2013.

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£21,333 - £26,067 per annum
Three Year Contract

The Romney Marsh Partnership (RMP) was formed in response to the decommissioning of the Magnox nuclear power station at Dungeness and aims to secure a sustainable economic future for the area.

Bringing together key stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors in Kent and East Sussex, RMP has already been instrumental in securing a major funding package, the Marsh Million, which will provide business loans and economic project grants to the area over the next three years.

RMP has now secured Magnox funding and we are looking to appoint an officer on the partnership's behalf to coordinate its activities. In particular the officer will develop and implement the Romney Marsh Socioeconomic Plan and help to promote uptake of the Marsh Million.

The successful candidate will have comprehensive knowledge of external funding and economic development, recent and relevant experience in a programme co-ordination role and excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

For an informal discussion about the job please contact David Illsley, Senior Economic Regeneration Officer on 01303 853474.

For further information and to apply for the role please visit www.shepway.gov.uk

This post is funded by Magnox Energy.

Thamesview School — PD WELFARE ASSISTANT

34.58 hrs per wk for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 3
£14,383.00 – £16,305.00 per annum
Pro rata to £11,343.00 - £12,859.00
Plus SEN Allowance of £1,193 pa

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Welfare Assistants to work closely with and support the needs of physically disabled (PD) students.

The post holder will be required to support PD students both in the classroom and within the PD area with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. Experience of dealing with students' welfare therefore is essential and the post holder will be required to undertake moving and handling training.

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120
or email m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: **8th October 2013, 9.00am**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 14th October 2013**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY
Advertise here Call 01303 817056
www.kentnews.co.uk

Forward Care

Forward Care (Residential) Ltd
Providing Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities
Now seeking
Senior & Support Worker for Days & Nights
To provide care for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour.

Interested candidates should apply in writing enclosing a recent C.V
Administrative Manager / Christine Morgan
Hill Farm, 15 Keycol Hill
Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ
Previous Applicants need not apply

Baileys Nissan - Sales Executive - Trainee Sales Executive Canterbury, Kent

Due to continued sales growth and our newly extended showroom, we have vacancies for an additional **Sales Executive** and a **Trainee Sales Executive**.

Both roles will require candidates to demonstrate a positive, confident and proactive approach to the delivery of the best standards of customer service.

Sales Executive
Experience at a franchised dealership is essential in this role as we are seeking someone to "hit the ground running" and deliver excellent customer service immediately.

Trainee Sales Executive
A comprehensive sales and operations training programme will be available for the successful candidate to learn all aspects of car sales. This is a "hands on" role in the sales operation including photographing cars, handing web enquiries, moving cars and greeting customers.

A competitive salary and benefits package is available. Please e-mail your CV and a covering letter explaining why you are the best candidate to **careers@baileysnissan.co.uk**

www.baileys-nissan.co.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

Reference: P069

Title: Level 1 Vocational Skills Tutor
(Part time 18.5 hrs per week)

Salary: £14,231 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience

Location: Medway Campus

Closing: 10/09/2013

Role: An experienced teacher is required to teach Level 1 students with a range of learning needs and abilities within a thriving area of the curriculum. You will be required to teach personal and social development as part of a team within a creative arts curriculum. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within FE education, has good knowledge of working with learners at level 1 and is passionate about reengaging learners within education. Experience of employment in a non-educational field is required ideally within retail or hospitality industries.

To apply for this vacancy please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College

Get your CV in front of local employers

Upload it to jobs24.co.uk today

IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

Link Education

Are currently recruiting

TEACHERS

Primary & Secondary Teachers Urgently required - day to day & long term posts

ALL KENT & LONDON BOROUGHS

Call and speak to one of our dedicated experienced Consultants

Est 2000 (ago)

01689 878565

www.link-education.co.uk

Financial Conference Promoter

Oct - Dec, possible extension. Excellent role great experience, working from home speaking to senior managers regarding attending this well-established event. No hard selling.

Call Ben on 0203 371 1423

£10ph neg. plus bonus.

Media Sales Executive

Ashford Office based
Competitive Salary,
plus bonus potential

To find out more :
www.archant.co.uk/vacancies

or email :
employment@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

Part-Time Sales Support

KENT LIFE ARCHANT KOS Media

Permanent role,
based in Smeeth, near Ashford

Competitive Salary

To find out more :
www.archant.co.uk/vacancies

or email :
employment@archant.co.uk

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sjwms.co.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 350 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust
'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Two Part-time Associate Staff Required

Part Time
School Science Laboratory Technician
Hours: 15 hours per week term time only plus 5 INSET days (39 weeks)
Grade: D2 point 12 – 21
Salary: £15,189 - £19,317 per annum pro-rata (£5,027 - £6,393)

We require a Science Laboratory Technician 15 hours per week (9.30 – 12.30 Monday – Friday) plus 5 INSET days (39 weeks) to work within the Science Department at this highly successful grammar school as soon as possible. You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experienced in a laboratory environment with school technician experience would be an advantage.

Part time Finance Assistant
Hours: 16 hours a week term time only plus 5 INSET days (39 weeks)
Grade: D2 Point 12 - 21
Salary: £15,189 - £19,317 per annum pro-rata (£5,362 - £6,820)

We require a Part-time Finance Assistant 16 hours per week (Wednesday – Friday) plus 5 INSET days (39 weeks) to work closely with the Finance Officer at this highly successful grammar school as soon as possible.
You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office using SIMs, FMIS Software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."
The School was designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools and is a National Support School.
If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.
The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy, All Hallows Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.
We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications – 4th October 2013
Interviews will take place week beginning – 7th October 2013

Aspire – Achieve - Excel

National Teaching School · Medway Inclusive School · The Williamson Trust · National College National Support School · Ofsted Outstanding 2008 2009

ABBEY COURT SCHOOL teaches pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 and 19. The school is based on 2 sites in Rainham (Nursery and Primary, and Strood (Secondary and Further Education)

Itinery for the morning....

- SCHOOL VIDEO
  An insight into who we are.
- ALL ABOUT US
  A tour of the school and presentation
- DIFFERENTIATED CURRICULUM
  A presentation on how our teaching and learning is differentiated to meet the special needs of our pupils.
- WHAT NEXT?
  Questions and answers.

Calling all Teachers!

Have you thought of widening your experience working with Special Educational Needs pupils?

Would you like to find out more about supply opportunities?

Why not come along to our Taster morning and discover more about working in a special school.....

Thursday 10th October
10am to 1pm
Abbey Court School, Long Catlis Road, Rainham, Kent
ME8 9TX

To reserve a **free** place, telephone the school on 01634 338220, or e-mail office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk by Friday 4th October.

Thamesview SCHOOL

Raising Aspirations Leader

37 hours per week for 52 weeks per year
Kent Range 6
£18,844.00 – £20,670.00 per annum

Are you dedicated to raising the aspirations of all students and in particular vulnerable students?

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will coordinate an aspirational career development programme that provides impartial advice to our students.

The post holder will be required to lead a team of Mentors in selecting students to target for mentoring and monitoring, coordinate the employment of outside agencies from local businesses to celebrity speakers to become involved in the school curriculum and inspire young people and facilitate and encourage aspiration in the student selection of pathways post 16.

The ideal candidate will be a Graduate and hold CEIAG Qualification Level 6 or be willing to work towards this.

Thamesview is a school where everyone is expected to do their best and rapidly rising examination results reflect this. We benefit from a new school building that provides innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 8081120 or email m.thomson@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: **10th October 2013, 9.00am**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 21st October 2013**

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy.

BE PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Advertise here

Call 01303 817056

www.kentnews.co.uk

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Swan Brasserie Ltd** has applied to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on **17th September 2013** for a new premises licence for **The Swan, Swan Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 5JU**

The proposed application is to permit **the provision of regulated entertainment , to permit the sale by retail of alcohol and the provision of late night refreshment.**

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by **16th October 2013 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)** stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service, Tonbridge and Malling BC, Gibson Buildings, Gibson Road, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at www.tonbridgeandmalling.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

Licensing Act 2003
BLIND ILLUSIONS
160-162 HIGH STREET DEAL CT14 6BG
Notice of application for Grant of a premises licence

Notice is hereby given that Jeffery Lenham & Gary Lahr has applied to Dover District Council for the grant of a premises licence for:

enable the sale of alcohol between
07.00 to 22.00 Monday to Saturday, 10.00 to 22.00 Sunday

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.dover.gov.uk or at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ tel.01304 872295, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by: October 2013

Dated: 28th September 2013

Gavyn and Suzanne Payne are delighted to announce the birth of their first son Samuel Robert.

Born 20th September at 5.42am

Mother and Son doing well alongside a delighted Dad

Heartfelt thanks for all the good wishes and the wonderful care received from the midwives, nurses and Gladys and Jodie at the William Harvey Hospital Baby Unit

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, FAVERSHAM) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2013

Notice is given that Kent County Council has an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order under sections 9 and 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders).

The effect of the Order, which was made on 25th September, 2013, and will come into force on 1st day of October, 2013, for an experimental period of 18 months, is to regulate the driving of vehicles in the Faversham Pedestrian Zone.

(a) Between 6am and 6pm on Mondays to Thursdays, and between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 6pm on Fridays and Saturdays, entry to the pedestrian zone via Court Street will be restricted to permit holders, goods vehicles making deliveries or collections, and to disabled persons vehicles. Between 10am and 4pm on Fridays and Saturdays all vehicles, except those of permit holders, will be prohibited.

(b) Between 6am and 6pm on Mondays to Fridays, and between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 6pm on Saturdays, entry to the pedestrian zone via East Street will be similarly restricted. Between 10am and 4pm on Saturdays all vehicles, except those of permit holders, will be prohibited. There will be a reversal of the existing 'one way' in East Street, Faversham (between Newton Road and Preston Street) to enable traffic to enter East Street from the Newton Road/Whitstable Road direction. Southbound traffic in Crescent Road will be unable to turn right into East Street as Crescent Road is not wide enough to provide a right turn lane.

Permits will be available to enable residents to access their properties (on-street parking restrictions must be complied with); to enable access to off street parking; and for access by businesses.

The experimental measures are being introduced to improve pedestrian safety, by preventing as far as is practicable, conflict between pedestrians and vehicles in the town centre.

The Order contains provisions allowing the Council to modify or suspend the Order or any provision of the Order after carrying out statutory consultations in accordance with Section 10(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Full details are contained in the Experimental Order which, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Orders, maps showing the location and effect, and a copy of any Orders which will be amended by the Experimental Orders may be examined at the Borough Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT, and Alexander Centre, Preston Street, Faversham, ME13 8NY, during normal office hours.

Kent County Council will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the Experimental Orders should be continued in force indefinitely. Any person may object to the making of the Orders for the purpose of such indefinite continuation within a period of six months:

(a) beginning with the day on which the Experimental Orders come into force, or

(b) if the Order is varied by any Order made by the County Council or modified by the Council pursuant to Section 10(2) of the 1984 Act, beginning with the day on which the variation or modification or the latest variation or modification came into force.

Any such objection, which must be in writing and state the grounds on which it is made, should be sent to Technical Services, Council Offices, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT within the relevant time period specified above.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Swale Borough Council (01795 417061) during normal office hours.
This Notice is published by Swale Borough Council on behalf of Kent County Council

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

For publication in Kent on Sunday week ending Sunday 29th September, 2013

Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER - CHILDCARE

To assist the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. To manage the administration of the team and to take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager.

£23,214 - £25,726 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk
Or you may call 01843 608727
(24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm Friday 11th October 2013.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Creative & Visual Arts department at our Medway Campus. We currently have vacancies within the following area:

Full Time Art Technician
- Term Time only (0.85)

Salary: £19,990
depending on qualifications and experience

Location: Medway

Closing: 27/09/2013

A full time art technician is required to support a busy and thriving art department during term time (40 weeks). Responsibilities will include setting up for lessons, supporting tutors during workshops, taking responsibility for health and safety as well as ordering and monitoring stock. The ideal candidate will have worked with young people and have a background of art with a specialist area. A job share may be considered if the ideal candidate would prefer to work part time. It would be desirable for candidates to have experience of Adobe Creative Suite.

The interviews will take place on 2nd October 2013

To apply for this position please contact job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.

MidKent College

Fill your job vacancies fast

To advertise in this section call: 01303 817056

jobs24.co.uk IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

It's jobs for Kent

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Miss Samantha Johnson trading as Milbrooke Ltd of 4 Bloors Lane, Gillingham, Kent ME8 7EG is applying for a license to use Cossington Fields Farm North, Bell Lane, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3EG as an operating centre for 6 goods vehicles and 0 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Application for the grant of a premises licence - Licensing Act 2003

West Street Premier Store,
15 West Street, Dover, CT17 0DU

Notice is hereby given that Selavanathan & Prabalini JEYATHAS, 15 West Street Dover CT17 0DU have applied to Dover District Council for a grant of a premises licence for the above premises to sell alcohol between the hours of 06:00 and 23:00 on any day.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.dover.gov.uk/licensing or at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent. CT16 3PJ by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

Friday 25th October 2013

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS LTD,
16 HAWTHORN ROAD, ASHFORD TN23 3LT

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in two areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as the areas of land consist of or form part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of the land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 11th October 2013.

SCHEDULE

Land on the east side of Hearten Oak Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 4ED (also known as Hartnokes) (approximately 0.05 hectares)

Land at Woolley Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0EJ (also known as Prospect Road) (approximately 0.04 hectares)

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager

Dated 20th September 2013

Commons Act 2006

Proposed correction of the register of town and village greens in respect of West Beach and Seasalter Beach village green (VG126), Kent

An inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, will hold an inquiry at the Castle Studio, Whitstable Castle, Tower Hill, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2BW on Tuesday 12 November 2013 into an application by Seasalter Shellfish (Whitstable) Limited under section 19(2)(a) of the Commons Act 2006 to correct a mistake made by the commons registration authority in making or amending an entry in the register in respect of the extent of West Beach and Seasalter Beach village green.

The inquiry will begin at 10.00 hours on Tuesday 12 November 2013. Anyone can attend the inquiry. Anyone who wants to be heard on the subject matter of the application may, at the discretion of the inspector, give evidence at the inquiry or arrange for someone to do so on his/her behalf.

Copies of the application form and accompanying documents may be inspected at the offices of the Public Rights of Way & Access Service, Regulatory Services Group, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. They are also available on request from the Planning Inspectorate, Room 325, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Richard Holland

Head of the Common Land Team
The Planning Inspectorate
on behalf of the Secretary of State
for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/02615/FUL Strawberry Hill House 65 Broadwater Down, Broadwater
- Construction of 9 no. age restricted retirement apartments, together with communal lounge, 12 car parking spaces, access and landscaping (CA)

13/02675/LBC The Oast Barn Hale Farm, Capel
- Listed building consent - conservation rooflight on north west elevation (LB)

13/02667/FUL Evernden Interiors Ltd Ground Floor Everndens, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Change of use from A1 shop to A3 (CA) (LB)

13/02627/FUL 4 Clanricarde Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Variation of condition (3) and removal of condition (4) of permission TW/06/01634 to allow use of first and second floors as children's nursery and outside space at rear as a play area and removal of parking (CA)

13/02628/FUL Bredbury House 77 Mount Ephraim, Culverden
- Detached two-storey dwelling within grounds of Bredbury House (CA)

13/02633/FUL 4 Clanricarde Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Variation of condition 2 of permission TW/92/01218 to allow the use of the building as a children's nursery and for the use of the rear area of the property as an outdoor play area (CA)

13/02636/FULMJ Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst
- Demolition of existing care home; Erection of a replacement three-storey 90-bed care home (Class C2) with parking and access facilities (MAJOR)

13/02657/HOUSE The Coach House Fowlers Park, Hawkhurst
- Lean-to garden storage building (retrospective) (LB)

13/02658/LBC The Coach House Fowlers Park, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Lean-to garden storage building (retrospective) (LB)

13/02618/FUL Park Farmhouse Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden
- Change of use of stable building to ancillary residential accommodation (retrospective) (LB)

13/02621/LBC Park Farmhouse Smallbridge Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Change of use of stable building to ancillary residential accommodation (retrospective) (LB)

13/02662/LBC The Coach House The Down, Lamberhurst
- Listed building consent - removal of wall on first floor between kitchen and sitting room (LB)

13/02610/FUL Kingswood Surgery Kingswood Road, Park
- Two storey extension, over-build extension and alterations to existing doctors surgery (CA)

13/02669/HOUSE Yew Tree Farm Pembury Road, Pembury
- Installation of new central heating system. Erection of a new post and rail fence. New metal guard rail to pond. Laying of new paving and gravel areas (LB)

13/02671/LBC Yew Tree Farm Pembury Road, Pembury
- Listed building consent - installation of new central heating system. Erection of a new post and rail fence. New metal guard rail to pond. Laying of new paving and gravel areas (LB)

13/02684/LBC 2 Oakfield Cottages, Rye Road, Sandhurst
- Listed building consent - removal of existing decayed living room floor and replacement with new joists and oak boarding. Replacement of doors with oak ledged doors, replacement of existing stair treads in poor condition with oak to suit, replacement of existing dry lining to front external wall with new dry lining to include insulation (works already completed) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 28 September 2013

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995

NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 6 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to which Article 6 applies ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9 am and 1.30 pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made by the Authority on 3 July 2013 and came into force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice on the 6th of July 2013. The Direction was confirmed on 23 September 2013 and remains in force in relation to the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 2–MINOR OPERATIONS

Class A

The erection, construction, maintenance, improvement or alteration of a gate, fence, wall or other means of enclosure.

Class B

The formation, laying out and construction of a means of access to a highway which is not a trunk road or a classified road, where that access is required in connection with permitted development, being development comprised within Class B of Part 2 of Schedule 2.

SCHEDULE 2 PART 4–TEMPORARY BUILDINGS AND USES

Class B

The use of the land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may be for the purposes referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any movable structure for the purpose of the permitted use.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 1.2 hectares known as Hatchin Tan to the south west side of Grandshore Lane, Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent .

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 28 September 2013

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 14 OCTOBER 2013

SW/13/0391 &
SW/13/0392:
Two storey rear and side extension - Sharsted House, Sharsted Road, DODDINGTON; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0881:
To clad the lower sections of the hotel in brickwork - Judds Folly Hotel, Syndale Park, OSPRINGE; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1115 &
SW/13/1116:
Single storey rear day room extension and new ground floor WC/Cloakroom (at far end of existing Entrance Hall); Removal of non-original modern studwork wall between bedrooms 1 and 2; Form new double casement dormer window in rear attic bedroom roof slope (existing rafters retained); Replace non-original modern double glazed windows in rear elevation (3 windows); Install 2 conservation rooflights into catslide roof; Remove central brick pier in 1970's rear kitchen extension and insert oak beam. - 94 West Street,FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/1117:
Variation of conditions 2 & 3 of SW/09/0194 in order to amend forklift truck route within the yard - Harbex Profiling & Grinding, High oak Hill Works, High Oak Hill, NEWINGTON; **REASONS 4 & 6**

SW/13/1138:
Provision of 13 residential dwellings extending to 2 & 2.5 storeys, together with associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure works - Former Faversham Foundry,Seagar Road,FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/13/1147:
Change of use on first floor from residential to retail, insertion of windows and glazing on ground and first floor and related internal alterations - 14 High Street,SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/13/1154:
Replacement of existing shop front at 2-4 Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent - Sheppey Aquatics,2-4 Rose Street,SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

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DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00716	Erection of a Anaerobic Digestion Plant and silage clamps, and the formation of bunds, and drainage ponds, and associated hard standing and landscaping **Great Cauldham Farm, Cauldham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, CT18 7HQ**	**MAJ**
DOV/13/00720	Installation of replacement windows and door **39 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, CT13 9AS**	**CON**
DOV/13/00751	Erection of a single storey side extension and a first floor front extension **The Cabin, Church Hill, Sutton, Dover, CT15 5DF**	**SLC**
DOV/13/00762	Erection of an attached granny annex and detached garage **Yew Tree Inn, Barfrestone, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 7JH**	**SLC**
DOV/13/00657	External and internal alterations **17 Victoria Road, Deal, CT14 7AS**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00745	Erection of a second floor rear extension **16A, Broad Street, Deal, CT14 6ES**	**SLC**
DOV/13/00766	Creation of internal protected means of escape from first floor, upgrading of doors to meet fire regulations, internal lobby at ground floor level and associated works **Red Lion, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, CT3 1BB**	**LCN**

Reason for Advert Codes:-

MAJ - Major Development **CON** - Within Conservation Area
LCN - Listed Building in a Conservation Area **LBC** - Listed Building Consent
SLC - To affect setting of a Listed Building & Conservation Area

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0540/SH# - Becket Farmhouse Beckett Road Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of an agricultural barn

Y13/0907/SH - 13 Twiss Avenue Hythe Kent CT21 5NU - Works to six Conifer trees situated within a conservation area comprising the cutting back of all overhanging branches to the boundary of 15 William Pitt Close

Y13/0942/SH - Mayfield Cherry Gardens Elham Canterbury Kent - Increase in height of roof to provide additional living accommodation.

Y13/0872/SH - Meadow Bank Canterbury Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Erection of a replacement dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow with external alterations to garage, together with the change of use of the land to the rear for the keeping of horses and erection of stables

Y13/0978/SH - The Manor House Five Vents Lane Old Romney Romney Marsh Kent - Felling of 13 trees situated within a conservation area followed by the planting of replacement trees

Y13/0976/SH+ - Stanford Depot Ashford Road Sandling Hythe Kent - Erection of a replacement 12.5m monopole mast including 2 No. 300mm dish antennas and ancillary equipment cabinets (Telecommunication development 56 day prior notification)

Y13/0917/SH - Pine Lodge The Street Newington Folkestone Kent - Erection of single storey front extension

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

… - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/13/1320/N - 101, SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9AD - Side and rear extension to allow conversion into four self contained units and staff facilities. **Reason: 7**

MA/13/1462/S - THE WHEELWRIGHTS, THE GREEN, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4LT - Change of use of land, demolition of existing structure and erection of 2 no. semi-detached houses. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/1574/N - 4, OAK CROFT, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4GF - Erection of part single storey and part two storey extension with external flue, conversion of garage into additional living accommodation, insertion of rooflight and erection of detached garage with associated works. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/1585/S - LAND AT STANLEY FARMS, PLAIN ROAD, MARDEN, KENT, TN12 9EH - An Outline application for 85 residential units and community facility with means of access from Napoleon Drive and Plain Road. All other matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1, 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/1592/N - THE TEN BELLS, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1SE - An application for conservation area consent for the demolition of existing extensions. **Reason: 4**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **13th October 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 29th September 2013.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) ORDER 1995
NOTICE OF THE CONFIRMATION OF A DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 4(1) TO WHICH ARTICLE 5 APPLIES

NOTICE is hereby given that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council ("the Authority") has confirmed a Direction made under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 ("the Direction").

The Direction applies to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice within the area described in the Second Schedule to this Notice.

The effect of the Direction is that permission granted by article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 shall not apply to development of the type specified in the First Schedule to this Notice and that such development shall not be carried out within the area specified in the Second Schedule to this Notice unless planning permission is granted by the Authority on an application made to the Authority under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

A copy of the Direction and of the map defining the area of land covered by it may be seen at the Council's Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 9 am and 1.30 pm on Saturday.

The Direction was made on 3 July 2013 and was confirmed and came into force on 23 September 2013

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

SCHEDULE 2 PART 5 - CARAVAN SITES

Class A

The use of the land, other than a building, as a caravan site in the circumstances referred to in paragraph A.2.

SECOND SCHEDULE

A parcel of land having an area of some 1.2 hectares known as Hatchin Tan to the south west side of Grandshore Lane, Frittenden, Cranbrook, Kent .

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 28 September 2013

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)
(FOLKESTONE SEAFRONT AND THE STADE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012
(MARINE PARADE AND LOWER SANDGATE ROAD OPERATING TIMES)
(AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to change the days of operation of the permit holder and pay and display bays from "all days" to "all days between 31st March and the 1st October" in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Harbour Approach Road; West side, from a point 30.3 metres south of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road, south for a distance of 42.7 metres; West side, from a point 24.3 metres north of its junction with Marine Parade, north for a distance of 11.0 metres; **Marine Parade**; South side, from a point 11.4 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road east for a distance of 121.6 metres; North side, from a point 36.7 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road east for a distance of 59.7 metres; North side, from a point 110.7 metres west of its junction with Marine terrace west for a distance of 34.7 metres; North side, from a point 65.4 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 30.6 metres; North side, from a point 56.4 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 4.6 metres; North side, from a point 31.5 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 14.1 metres; South side, from a point 61.6 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 80.3 metres; South side, from a point 22.8 metres west of its junction with Marine Terrace west for a distance of 32.9 metres; North side, from a point 14.5 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 12.0 metres; North side, from a point 30.8 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 15.0 metres; North side, from a point 53.6 metres east of its junction with Marine Terrace east for a distance of 30.7 metres; **Lower Sandgate Road**; South side, from a point 98 metres west of its junction with Marine Parade, west for a distance of 110 metres; South side, from a point 9 metres east of its junction with Lower Sandgate Road, west for a distance of 85 metres

The Order also proposes to change the shared use permit holder and pay and display bay to 1 hour limited waiting in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Lower Sandgate Road; North west side, from a point 30 metres north-east of its junction with Road of Remembrance, north east for a distance of 27.2 metres

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone C), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone C" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 21st October 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)
(FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND THE BAYLE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012
(AMENDMENT NO 2) (ZONE A1 TIMES OF OPERATION) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to implement new parking restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Emergency vehicle parking place [at all times] - The Leas - South east side, from its junction with Road of Remembrance, south west for a distance of 11.2 metres

Limited waiting 1 hour no return within 2 hours [8am - 6pm Mondays to Saturdays (both days inclusive)] - Bouverie Road West - All time limited waiting parking places between Castle Hill Avenue and Christ Church Road; Cheriton Place - East side, from a point 24.5 metres north of its junction with Sandgate Road, north for a distance of 94.1 metres; Christ Church Road - All time limited parking places between Bouverie Road West and Sandgate Road; Grace Hill - South west side, from a point 28.4 metres north west of its junction with Rendezvous Street, north west to a point 22.9 metres south east of its junction with Shellons Street; Sandgate Road - All time limited parking places between Castle Hill Avenue and a point 67.6 metres south west of its junction with Bouverie Place; Shellons Street - South east side, from a point 25 metres south west of its junction with Grace Hill, south west for a distance of 35 metres; The Leas - South east side, from a point 11.2 metres west of its junction with Road of Remembrance, south west for a distance of 15.7 metres; West Terrace - south west, from a point 46.6 metres south east of its junctions with Bouverie Place, south east for a distance of 12.5 metres.

Shared use limited waiting for 1 hour no return within 2 hours and permit holders [8am - 6pm on all days] - Manor Road - East side, from a point 20.8 metres south of its junction with Bouverie Road West south for a distance of 33.3 metres; West side, from a point 15.5 metres north of its junction with Sandgate Road north for a distance of 36.5 metres; Shakespeare Terrace - West side, from a point 14.7 metres south of its junction with Sandgate Road south for a distance of 20.7 metres; West side, from a point 27.4 metres north of its junction with the Leas north for a distance of 18.6 metres.

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone A), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone A" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 21st October 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/01401/FUL: 13 West Cliff, Whitstable, CT5 1DN Replacement of three PVC double glazed windows to front of property (2x first floor and 1x second floor) with timber (Accoya) double-glazed sash windows to match original timber windows. **Applicant: Mrs Penny Lyons** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01582/FUL: 115 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LA Conversion of existing buildings to two self-contained units with associated private amenity space. **Applicant: Mr Plews** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01597/FUL: Tiuccia, Derringstone Street, Barham, CT4 6QB Dormer to rear elevation. **Applicant: Mr Carmodey** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01718/FUL: Land and garages at 41 Shalmsford Street, Chartham, CT4 7RS Proposed development of land and garages to a pair of semi-detached cottages; extension of existing outbuilding and conversion to dwelling together with renovating existing cottage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Blackmore and Mr and Mrs Holder** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01722/FUL: Littlebourne Court, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TU Installation of a tennis court with associated fencing and landscaping. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs P Kelsey** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01734/FUL: 29 West Cliff, Whitstable, CT5 1DL Erection of a single-storey rear extension and alterations to rear fenestration. **Applicant: Mr M Wellden** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01740/FUL: 72 Charles Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5HW Proposed rebuild of existing three-storey rear extension and proposed erection of a rear verandah/balcony. **Applicant: Mr C Williams** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01744/FUL: Willow Cottage, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4EB Erection of a detached building to form garden store/workshop with a home office above. **Applicant: Mr Price** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01749/FUL: 37 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HQ Proposed demolition of existing chimney stack (over kitchen) and rebuild using salvaged bricks and to same detail as previously existing. **Applicant: Mr F Whitemore** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01754/LB: 37 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HQ Listed building consent for the demolition of existing chimney stack and rebuild using same materials, and to the same detail as existing. **Applicant: Mr F Whitemore** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/01757/CAC: Little Granary, The Drove, Chestfield, CT5 3NX Demolition of bungalow and farmyard buildings. **Applicant: Hollamby Estates (2005) Ltd** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//13/01758/FUL: 4 Vernon Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HG Replacement windows and front door to front elevation. **Applicant: Mrs Newton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/01764/LB: The Little Cottage, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Proposed rear extension with two rooflights and associated alterations. **Applicant: Mrs Morrish** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/01772/FUL: The Little Cottage, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Proposed rear extension with two rooflights and associated alterations. **Applicant: Mrs Morrish** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc** to arrive on or before **Monday 21 October 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 27 September 2013

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE DISTRICTS OF DOVER AND SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BYWAY HE30 / ER146

IN THE PARISH OF DENTON WITH WOOTTON AND ELHAM

PUBLIC BYWAY HE30 / ER146 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Byway HE30 / ER146 from Reece Lane to Snode Hill from 23rd September 2013.

The route will be closed to all traffic between Reece Lane and the junction with Public Footpath ER140.

The northern section (between the junction with Public Footpath ER140 and Snode Hill) will be closed to vehicular traffic but will be available for equestrians and pedestrians.

The route will be closed for a maximum of 6 months although it is expected that the planned works may take 2 months to complete.

The route will be closed for the construction of a new water pumping station and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route available.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Denne

Contact Centre Tel: 0845 345 0210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http:/www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ZR92 AND ZU52

IN THE PARISHES OF IWADE AND BOBBING

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS ZR92 AND ZU52 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpaths ZR92 and ZU52 between 10 and 11 Coleshall Cottages, Sheerstone and Sheppey Way from 23rd September 2013.

The route will be closed for a maximum of 6 months.

The route will be closed for the construction of a road, bridge and pumping station and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

An alternative route is available along Sheppey Way and Monins Road, Iwade.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Contact Centre Tel: 0845 345 0210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http:/www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

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NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZB47 (PART) / ZSX77 (PART)

IN THE PARISHES OF QUEENBOROUGH AND SHEERNESS

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZB47 (PART) / ZSX77 (PART)) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZB47 (part) / ZSX77 (part) between the junction with Public Footpath ZSX78 (NGR TQ 908 735) and Park Road from 23rd September 2013.

The route will be closed for a maximum of 6 months.

The route will be closed for the construction of a new footbridge to the existing coastal path and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Contact Centre Tel: 0845 345 0210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http:/www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 29th September 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (M0n-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

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HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

A2070 SIDE ROADS, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to Highways Agency closures of the A2070 Trunk Road for resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily restrict traffic on various side roads in the vicinity of A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford.

Closures of the A2070 are planned to commence from 30 September 2013, with only one carriageway closed at any one time, as follows.

30 September & 1-3 October – 4 nights – eastbound closures

4 & 7-9 October – 4 nights– westbound closures

10-12 October– 3 nights– eastbound closures

14 October – 1 night– westbound closure

Closures are from 20:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each night.

The closures affect various roads that join the A2070, depending on which carriageway is closed, and the effects are detailed below.

WESTBOUND CLOSURES

During westbound closures (towards A2070 Hamstreet Bypass), the following apply.

CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON (east side) will be closed at the junction with the southbound carriageway of the A2070

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road and Highfield Lane

WATERBROOK AVENUE will be closed at the Orbital Park Roundabout junction with the A2070

There is no alternative route

EASTBOUND CLOSURES

During eastbound closures (towards M20 Junction 10), the effects are as follows

THE BOULEVARD will be closed at Orbital Park Roundabout junction with the A2070

The alternative route is via Monument Way, Crowbridge Road, Crowbridge Link, Boys Hall Road, Sevington Lane, Church Road and A292 Hythe Road

BARREY ROAD will be closed at the junction with the northbound carriageway of the A2070

The additional alternative route to join the above diversion (for The Boulevard closure) is via Church Road, Sevington and Sevington Lane, with these roads re-opened as below

CHURCH ROAD & SEVINGTON LANE – the Order to that prevents access between Church Road and Sevington Lane will be suspended for the duration of these works to allow its use as the diversion, with the temporary removal of the bollards

A temporary 7.5 T weight restriction will be imposed on Church Road, Sevington and Sevington Lane in both directions, between the junctions with Barrey Road Boys Hall Road.

Waiting will be prohibited on Church Road, Sevington and Sevington Lane to the extents defined below, when the relevant signs and No Waiting cones are displayed on site. This applies between 19:30 hours through until 06:00 hours on any nights that the northbound carriageway of the A2070 is closed.

SEVINGTON LANE – waiting will be prohibited on both sides, between the junctions with Church Road, Sevington and Boys Hall Road

CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON – waiting will be prohibited on both sides, between the junctions with Barrey Road and Sevington Lane

NEW CUT ROAD, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on New Cut Road, Chilham.

New Cut Road, Chilham will be closed for its entire length.

It is planned that the road will be closed from 30 September through until 7 October 2013 inclusive, but will be re-opened on Sunday 6 October.

The alternative route is via A252 Maidstone Road, Mulberry Hill and Selling Road.

B2082 SMALLHYTHE ROAD, TENTERDEN (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during mobile carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on part of B2082 Smallhythe Road, Tenterden.

The speed limit applies during carriageway repairs that are planned to be carried out from 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

This affects the both carriageways of B2082 Smallhythe Road, between Pickhill Farmhouse and the junction with Dumbourne Lane, as and when the relevant 30 mph speed limit signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Chartham Level Crossing, Chartham.

Station Road, Chartham will be closed in the vicinity of Chartham Level Crossing.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 6 October at 01:00 hours through until Monday 7 October at 05:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street, Bolts Hill, Parish Road, Church Lane and Station Road.

KING STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER SEPTEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install phone cabinets and ducting, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of King Street, Canterbury.

King Street will be closed between the junctions with Orange Street and St Alphege Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 30 September 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Due to the nature of the works, the road will need to remain closed at all times during the closure period.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Palace Street and Orange Street

Northbound via Orange Street, Palace Street, The Borough, St Radigund's Street and Knotts Lane

MILL LANE, BRIDGE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to re-line a sewer, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Mill Lane, Bridge, Canterbury.

Mill Lane will be closed between junctions with Western Avenue and Brewery Lane.

The closure is planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Western Avenue, High Street and Brewery Lane.

SOUTH STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of essential carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of South Street, Whitstable.

South Street will be closed between the junctions with Chestfield Road and Millstrood Road.

The closure is planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 5 days, between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Millstrood Road, A2990 (Old) Thanet Way and Chestfield Road.

A290 ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the reconstruction of a low level flint wall, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A290 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury.

A290 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury will be closed to westbound/northbound traffic (heading towards Whitstable) in the vicinity of Westgate Towers.

Closures are planned to commence from Monday 30 September 2013 for up to 7 nights, from 19:00 hours through until 05:45 hours each night

Traffic from St Peter's Place will be unable to reach St Dunstan's Street or North Lane.

The alternative route is via A290 St Peters Place, A2050 Rheims Way, London Road and A290 St Dunstan's Street.

Eastbound/southbound traffic (heading into Canterbury) is unaffected.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Sturry Level Crossing, Canterbury.

A28 Mill Road (Sturry Hill), Sturry will be closed for a distance of approximately 30 metres either side of the level crossing.

The closure is planned for Sunday 6th October from 00:01 hours until 08:00 hours.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road

Pedestrians will be escorted across the road whilst the level crossing is closed, but there might be some delays.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

MIDDLE DEAL ROAD, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit westbound traffic on part of Middle Deal Road, Deal.

Middle Deal Road will be closed to westbound traffic between the junctions with Matthews Close and Southwall Road, and will thus become one-way, eastbound.

This is planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 7 weeks.

The alternative route for westbound traffic is via Albert Road, A258 London Road, Bowling Green Lane, Orchard Avenue, Church Lane and Southwall Road.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on both sides of Middle Deal Road between the junctions with Matthews Close and Southwall Road, which will be indicated by signage and No Waiting cones.

Eastbound traffic is unaffected.

NAPCHESTER ROAD, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a water meter, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Napchester Road, Whitfield.

Napchester Road will be closed will be closed between the junctions with Church Whitfield Road and Abbey Top / Roman Road.

The closure is planned to commence from 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 08:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Church Whitfield Road, Archers Court Road, Abbey Road, Rose Hill and Abbey Top.

OLD DOVER ROAD, CAPEL-LE-FERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Old Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne.

Old Dover Road will be closed in phases between the eastern junction with New Dover Road (Dover end) and the junction with Alexandra Road, with no through access.

The closure is planned to commence from 7 October 2013 for up to 5 days, between 07:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route for through traffic is via B2011 New Dover Road and Alexandra Road. Additional local diversions may be signposted on site as the works progress.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH (SANDWICH TOWN TIDAL DEFENCES) (TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during construction works for Sandwich Town Tidal Defences, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose temporary traffic restrictions on part of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, as defined below.

Restrictions will apply from 30 September 2013 until 1 April 2014 inclusive.

RAMSGATE ROAD, SANDWICH – PROHIBITION OF WAITING

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on both sides of Ramsgate Road, Sandwich between the junctions with Willowbank and Stonar Road. This applies from Monday to Saturday, between 08:00 hours to 18:00 hours each day.

The restrictions will be indicated by signage and single yellow lines on site.

SANDWICH TOLL BRIDGE–EXEMPTION FROM 7.5 T LIMIT

Vehicles involved in the construction of the Sandwich Town Tidal Defences will be exempted from the 7.5 T weight limit on Sandwich Toll Bridge, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich.

The existing 36' (11 M) length and 14' 6" height restrictions will continue to apply, and construction traffic will be limited to no more than 40 T in weight.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

CLIVE ROAD, (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because Cobra Traffic Management will be placing a cherry picker on the highway to access and maintain a telecom mast, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clive Road, on or after 6th October 2013 the order will apply for up to 4 consecutive Sundays and will comprise of night time closures on the 6th, 13th 20th and 27th of October 2013 from 20.00hrs to 06.00 hrs the following morning.

The road will be closed from Stone Street to Anglesea (Thamesgate) Centre carpark access road.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Railway Place, Windmill Street, Woodville place,Wrotham Road, Old Road West, Pelham Road and Darnley road.

The existing no entry into king Street from Princes Street and New Road will also be temporarily suspended on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th October 2013 from 20.00hrs to 06.00hrs to enable traffic to use King Street and Windmill Street as a diversion route

LONDON ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement work and associated connections Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the following restriction, on or after 30th September 2013 for up to 10 weeks or until the works has been completed

The restrictions will apply when the appropriate signage is in place.

The following restrictions shall apply:

No left turn into Dover Road for traffic heading in a westerly direction from London Road.

No right turn into London Road for traffic heading from Dover Road in a northerly direction.

No right turn into Dover Road for traffic heading from The Hill in a southerly direction.

Suspension of existing Cycle lane for whole length of works along London Road for cycles heading in a westerly direction.

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn left into Dover Road from London Road will be as follows – The Hill–Northfleet High Street – Stonebridge Road – around the roundabout – Stonebridge Road (eastbound) – Northfleet High Street (eastbound) – The Hill (eastbound) – London Road (eastbound) – Thames Way-B261– Dover Road.

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn right into London Road from Dover Road will be as follows – The Hill–Northfleet High Street – Stonebridge Road – around the roundabout – Stonebridge Road (eastbound) – Northfleet High Street (eastbound) – The Hill (eastbound) – London Road.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 0300 333 5539 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Diversion route for vehicles wanting to turn right into Dover Road from The Hill the following diversion route will apply –– London Road – Thames Way- B261– Dover Road.

The restrictions in conjunction with temporary traffic signals are to enable gas mains replacement work and associated connections to be carried out by Southern Gas Networks.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

CHURCH ROAD, HARRIETSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a railway bridge examination, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Harrietsham, on or after 17 October 2013 for up to 1 night between 22.00hrs and 0600.hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Dickley Lane, Marley Road.

GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a railway bridge examination, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Greenway Court Road, Hollingbourne, on or after 15 October 2013 for up to 1 night between 22.00hrs and 06.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, Hospital Road.

HEADCORN ROAD, LENHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Headcorn Road, Lenham, on or after 30 September 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Chain Gate Road.

The alternative route is via Park Road, Lenham Road.

PUDDING LANE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a crane lifting equipment on and off of Star House, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pudding Lane, on or after 20 October 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Medway Street to Earl Street.

The alternative route is via Medway Street, A229 Fairmeadow, Earl Street.

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of footway and carriageway repair works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Maidstone, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **17th October 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

MAIDSTONE

CHILLINGTON STREET – whole length **17th October 2013**

Alternative route via John Street, Thornhill Place, Fisher Street, Arundel Street

ARUNDEL STREET – junction with Peel Street **18th October 2013**

Alternative route via Peel Street, Canning Street, Chillington Street

PERRY STREET – junction with Albert Street **21st October 2013**

Alternative route via Albert Street, Perryfield Street

ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED – junction with A20 Ashford Road

21st October 2013 for 10 working days

Alternative route via The Landway, A20 Ashford Road

PEEL STREET – outside Ragstone Lodge **22nd October 2013** for 2 working days

Alternative route via Fisher Street, Well Road, Boxley Road, Sandling Road, The Hedges, Hillary Road, Peel Street

CARING LANE, THURNHAM – junction with A20 Ashford Road

28th October 2013 for 5 working days

Alternative route via Caring Road, Otham Lane, A20 Ashford Road

SANDWAY ROAD, LENHAM – outside Sunnybank **4th November 2013** for 3 working days

Alternative route via Headcorn Road, Church Lane, Boughton Road, Lenham Heath Road

HAMPTON ROAD – junction with Bearsted Road **4th November 2013**

Alternative route via A249 Sittingbourne Road, Bearsted Road

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

HIGH STREET FARNINGHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of New electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street Farningham, on or after 1st October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the Lion Hotel High Street Farningham.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via A225 Eynsford Road, A20 Main road, Dartford Road and vice versa.

SPEEDGATE HILL, FAWKHAM, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT safe access to the underground structure for cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Speedgate Hill, Fawkham, Sevenoaks, on or after 30th September 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Three Gates Road to the junction with Valley Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Valley Road, Sun Hill, Three Gates Road.

VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM, SEVENOAKS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of allowing BT Safe access to the carriageway to undertake cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham, Sevenoaks, on or after 15th October 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Valley Road from the junction with Speedgate Hill to the junction with Manor Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Valley Road, B260, Darenth Hill, Parsonage Lane, A225, A20, Scratchers Lane, Brands Hatch Road, Valley Road and vice versa.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

BLACKHOUSE HILL, HYTHE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Blackhouse Hill, Hythe.

Blackhouse Hill will be closed for most of its length, with no through access between Hythe and the A20 using this route.

Access will remain along Bargrove (from the A20) to where it becomes Blackhouse Hill, but there will be no through access.

Closures are planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The alternative route is via Bargrove, A20 Ashford Road, Stanford Intersection, Ashford Road, A261 Hythe Road, London Road, A259 Military Road (Dymchurch Road and Scanlon's Bridge Road in reverse), Rampart Road, Prospect Road, Station Road and Blackhouse Hill.

COLDHARBOUR LANE LEVEL CROSSING, OLD ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Coldharbour Lane Level Crossing, Old Romney.

Coldharbour Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

Closures are planned as follows

Monday 14 October 2013 from 23:00 hours through until 05:30 hours

Tuesday 15 October 2013 from 23:00 hours through until 05:30 hours

The alternative route is via Midley Wall and Beggarsbush Lane.

WENHAMS LANE, OLD ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works in connection with the forthcoming Solar Farm, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Wenhams Lane, Old Romney.

The closure is planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for through traffic between with Ivychurch and the A259 using this route.

The alternative route is via A259 Rhee Wall, Brenzett Roundabout, A2070 Ashford Road, Ivychurch Road and Wenhams Lane.

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

B2005 EUROLINK WAY, SITTINGBOURNE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER SEPTEMBER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst junction safety modification works are being carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2005 Eurolink Way, Sittingbourne.

Eurolink Way will be closed at the junction with Castle Road.

Closures are planned as follows

Sunday 13 October from 07:00 hours until 21:00 hours

Additional overnight closures are likely to be needed on some or all of the following dates, subject to progress

Monday 14 October for up to 6 nights, from 21:00 hours through until 05:00 hours

The alternative route is via Eurolink Way, Crown Quay Lane, A2 St Michael's Road, (eastbound also via Dover Street and West Street), London Road, Key Street, Sheppey Way, A249 Iwade Bypass, B2005 Swale Way and Castle Road.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

A256 HAINE ROAD, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of A256 Haine Road, Ramsgate.

Haine Road will be closed between Lord of the Manor Roundabout and the junction with Manston Road.

Closures are planned from Thursday 17 October 2013 for up to 2 nights, between 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via Lord of the Manor Roundabout, A299 & A255 Canterbury Road East, Nethercourt Hill, High Street St Lawrence, B2014 Newington Road, B2050 Manston Road and A256 Haine Road.

SUSSEX STREET, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works for the construction of 2 timber-framed houses, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Sussex Street, Ramsgate.

Sussex Street will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with King Street.

The closure is planned to commence from 14 October 2013 for up to 5 months or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via King Street, Belmont Street and Hardres Street.

YORK STREET & QUEEN STREET, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a water supply to a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on York Street and Queen Street, Ramsgate.

York Street will be closed from the junction with B2054 Royal Parade, for its entire length.

Queen Street will be closed immediately to the west of the junction with York Street.

The closures are planned to commence from Monday 30 September 2013 for up to 3 days, between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

There is no alternative route for these closures. The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Queen Street will from junction with Leopold Street to where the road is closed, to allow limited access when safe.

Please note these details have been amended since originally published.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 6th October 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

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The shooting king who

George Digweed is at the top of the tree in the world of clay-pigeon-shooting, with dozens of world titles, but he is not the household name he should be. **Greg Miles** finds out why.

WITH a trophy cabinet to rival that of Manchester United, it is perhaps surprising that George Digweed is not a household name.

He is a 22-time world-champion shooter, claiming silverware across the many differing formats in his sport, but his near-domination of clay-pigeon-shooting since he started in 1986 has barely put him anywhere near the heights he should be compared with others who achieved similar feats in their respective sports.

So how is it that the 49-year-old who has had his most successful season to date has slipped under the radar of the masses?

A lack of television coverage plays its part, as does his being labelled a politically-incorrect sport, as Digweed puts it. It has not, though, stopped the south-west Kent resident picking up more trophies than you would know what to do with.

"I'm a great believer in never looking back," said the man who was awarded an MBE for his services to sport in 2009.

"You're only as good as your last result. When you look at a list of achievements, it's great, but I always get up in the morning and wonder whether I've still got it.

"If you wake up thinking I'm world champion this and European champion that you lose sight of the bigger picture.

"I think the scale of what I've achieved will only be recognised in the shooting sports posthumously. It's appeared that because I've won so much that it's easy to win things.

"I've had my best year ever this year and, looking at what I've won, if someone else did that they would be at the top of their game if they won it in a lifetime and I've won it in a year.

"Yes, records are nice and it's great to do it, but you have to be grounded by it. I'm an old man at it now. Apart from darts-player Phil Taylor, who's winning world championships at nearly 50?"

While it is one of the top participation sports in the world, with one million competing in America alone, it is not one that attracts a great deal of television time or publicity outside its own circle.

"The fact is, you can't televise a miss," he said. "You can only televise the target breaking and it flying on.

"When you're playing darts, it lands the other side of the wire, or it goes in – or in snooker it rattles in the jaws and comes out. It's all visual. If someone makes a putt in golf, it lips out and sits there – the miss. I could shoot in one direction and the target keeps flying – I could miss it by three inches and no one knows. It's difficult to televise the anticipation."

The sport has also felt the impact of those against gun culture, as he explains: "Without any shadow of a doubt, it's one of the biggest participation sports in the country, but because it's politically incorrect it doesn't get the same coverage that others do.

"There have been several abhorrent instances where lunatics have gone mad with guns. The sport can't legislate for those idiots who are mentally deranged.

"If someone is that insane that they're going to go out and kill people they will do it with a knife or golf club if they can't get their hands on a gun.

"We are unfairly portrayed and penalised because of what people have done illegally.

"That said and done, I would like to think that what I have achieved goes a bit to putting Great back into Great Britain by achieving it in a sport where it's politically incorrect."

Shooting was given a lift in profile when Peter Wilson bagged gold for Team GB at the Olympics last summer in the double trap.

With Digweed, who runs shoots in south Kent, specialising in the sporting discipline, there has not yet been the opportunity for him to make it to the Olympics, but he remains hopeful that it can one day benefit from more exposure.

"It's very high-profile for a period of time and tends to fade into obscurity – then it comes out of the closet for the Commonwealth Games," he said. "What Peter's achieved is great for him and the sport in general.

"There is possible talk of a form of our sport coming into the Olympic arena, in what they call Compak Sporting. They're looking at introducing it within the next two or three Games.

"I would assume it would be past my era, but it will be good for the sport."

Talk of starring in the Olympics is all a long way from when he started going out to shoot with his grandfather while working in the family-run butchers.

"I started in the shop at seven and went all the way through," he said. "My grandfather used to shoot rabbits and pigeons, which were always sold in the shop.

"I have always been competitive in whatever I've done, so taking it further was a natural progression. I didn't realise it would go to the level it has, but the rest is history.

"We started going clay-shooting and doing bits and pieces aged 12 or 13. My big breakthrough came in

I TAUGHT KENT CAPTAIN ALL HE KNEW

While shooting is George Digweed's first love, cricket is also high on the list.

Kent captain and England spinner James Tredwell was once under the captaincy of Digweed in his village cricket days.

Digweed even has his own entry in cricketing bible Wisden for an incredible spell of bowling when he took eight wickets in five maiden overs.

The friendship with Tredders is one that exists to this day and sees a number of the Kent players regularly at his shoots.

''They all come shooting, the whole lot,'' he said. ''I've known Keysey four or five years now. But I used to skipper James Tredwell.

''He's always been a very determined cricketer. I wouldn't say he's got the talent of Kevin Pietersen, or someone like Joe Root or Ravi Bopara in terms of flair and talent, but what he's got that they haven't is the determination to work at his skills.

''I think what he's achieved is more remarkable than what they have because of his work rate. He's got there through sweat and blood and guts.

''I've huge admiration for him. He's not from a public school background and he grew up on the [Romney] Marsh. I think it's a fabulous story. He's got there through sheer hard work and determination.

''Obviously, while he's ranked the second best off-spinner in the country, it's not Graeme Swann he's behind – it's me.

''I used to trundle in off 12 paces, but that's quite a long way now. I'm seeing so many blood spots by the time I get to the wicket I can't work out where the batsman is.''

has won it all

HOT-SHOT: George Digweed has a very full trophy cabinet
Picture: ADY KERRY

1986 and I represented England."

Taking a proactive approach to learning played a key part in his progression from butcher's shop boy to the big stage.

"I wouldn't say my grandfather taught me a huge amount, but he encouraged me and helped me progress in the sport," he said.

"You obviously pick up bits and pieces off the best in the sport. If you're a learner, you can watch golf on the telly and see certain things. I looked at all the best shots from that era and learnt.

"I see it so many times that people take their sons shooting. They're going to be the best shot in the world, but then he finds women and he never shoots again.

"The understanding of any sport is greatest when you're youngest. Your ability to learn and reproduce that information is at its peak.

"There are a huge amount of winners in the sport nowadays and the standards have got better and better. It's all right being able to do it, but you have got to be able to do it when someone says so."

Learning from his own mistakes has also pushed him to the fore of shooting.

"We are all given opportunities, but it's how much you want them," he said.

"Some people don't learn by their mistakes. They don't take the opportunity gifted upon them. I've been a believer in never looking a gift-horse in the mouth.

"I'm not saying there's been one big mistake, but sport is a great leveller. You have to learn from things you've done in the past and not make those mistakes again.

"You need to be able to admit that you've done something wrong. You've got to be as honest with yourself as you can, and if you've not succeeded you must work harder."

Digweed's modesty is probably best summed up by his attitude towards his own motivation:

"I don't look back and say 'I won this last year, I will win it this year'. I say 'I won it last year, I have to work twice as hard this year to have a chance of winning it'."

Digweed's high points

George Digweed has won 183 titles since 1986, including:

22 world titles
11 Sporting, 10 Fitasc, 1 Compak

18 European titles
14 Fitasc and 4 Compak

12 world cups
10 Fitasc and 2 Sporting

Shooting disciplines: What's the difference?

Sporting The biggest of the disciplines uses various targets, thrown in a variety of trajectories, angles, speeds, elevations and distances.

It was originally devised to simulate live-quarry shooting.

Trap Targets are thrown either as singles or doubles from one or more traps situated some 15 metres in front of the shooter and are generally going away from the firing point at varying speeds, angles and elevations.

Skeet Targets are thrown in singles and doubles from two trap houses some 40 metres apart, at opposite ends of a semicircular arc with seven shooting positions.

They are thrown at set trajectories and speeds.

Did you know?

George Digweed's younger brother John is a record-producer and DJ, once voted No 1 DJ in DJ Magazine's Top 100.

Sport Shorts

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Duo given contracts at Kent after impressing in seconds

KENT have signed young fast bowlers Charlie Hartley and Matt Hunn.

Former Millfield School pupil Hartley, a right-arm swing bowler, represented Kent's second XI last year.

Hunn, a 19-year-old pace bowler from Ipswich, has played in the Essex second XI and Suffolk age group squads.

He joined Kent earlier this season after a recommendation from Bob Flack at Suffolk and made his debut against Lancashire at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence this week.

Kent cricket high performance director Simon Willis said: "Both of these young players have impressed at second-team level this season – showing a great desire as well as having the ability to take wickets on a regular basis."

DEAL: Matt Hunn

BYRNE: Focused on rival Lowes

Title battle heating up for Byrne

SHANE Byrne only has eyes for title rival Alex Lowes as the British Superbike Championship draws to a close.

The Sittingbourne rider crashed out of race two at Assen last weekend after contact with Lowes who now sits a point behind him in the leaderboard.

The 36-year-old is focused on making sure he finishes above Lowes in the penultimate round at Silverstone next weekend.

"I want to come out fighting at Silverstone because I am not giving up on that fourth title," said the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki rider.

"The person I have to focus on is Alex; he is the closest one to me in the points which of course means he is the one I need to beat first. That is my plan of action at Silverstone."

Conway on form for second win

MIKE Conway claimed his second consecutive victory in the FIA World Endurance Championship in Texas.

The Sevenoaks driver continued his form in the LMP2 category in the six-hour challenge at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin.

He finished a lap ahead of his rivals with his team-mates John Martin and Roman Rusinov.

Herne Bay bring back striker King

STUART King has returned to Herne Bay from Folkestone Invicta.

The forward re-joined Invicta from Maidstone United in the summer, having signed at the Gallagher Stadium for a reported £15,000 earlier last season.

Now he is back at Winch's Field, where he started out in the youth team.

Onslow-Cole is feeling at home

TOM Onslow-Cole is confident of a strong challenge at Silverstone this weekend in the British Touring Car Championship as he settles into life at Airwaves Racing.

The driver, who made his debut for the Wrotham-based team in the last round, said: ''It's like a family atmosphere and I feel very supported within the team.''

Barrett: plenty of points left to play for

GILLINGHAM captain Adam Barrett has urged fans to keep the belief as they look to turn around their poor start.

The 1-0 defeat at home to Bradford last Saturday meant it was 10 games in all competitions without a win

"We need to keep the fight and there is a long way to go and a lot of points to play for," he said.

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